## CALLED MEETING OF THE WOMAN'S BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS

Held at the Tenth Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, Pa.

May 26, 1920

The President, Mrs. F. S. Bennett, presiding

The meeting was opened with prayer by Mrs. Porter of Kentucky and Mrs. Edwards of California.

The Roll Call showed the following members present: -

Miss A. M. Alward
Mrs. E. H. Bancker
Mrs. F. S. Bennett
Mrs. S. B. Brownell
Mrs. E. B. Cobb
Mrs. A. W. Corning
Mrs. A. S. Crane
Mrs. J. S. Dickson
Miss Anna Hallock
Miss Annie Hyatt
Mrs. H. C. Louderbough
Mrs. J. E. McAfee
Mrs. John McDowell
Mrs. J. K. Mitchell
Miss E. Jessie Ogg
Miss Mabel Gordon Parker
Miss Elinor K. Purves
Mrs. Frederick E. Stockwell
Mrs. C. L. Thompson
Mrs. D. E. Waid
Miss V. May White
Miss Anna G. Young

The following synodical delegates were present:-

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| Atlantic | Mrs. M. M. Jones, Synodical President |
| Baltimore | Miss Fanny Childs, Synodical Vice-President, substituting for Mrs. Wallace Radcliffe |
| California | Mrs. B. F. Edwards, Synodical Corresponding Sec. |
| Catawba | Mrs. W. J. Rankin, Synodical President |
| Colorado | Mrs. A. A. Reed, Synodical President |
| Illinois | Mrs. Albert G. Beebe, Synodical President |
| Indiana | Miss Isabel Cooper, Synodical Corresponding Sec. substituting for Mrs. F. F. McCrea, Synodical President, |
| Iowa | Mrs? S. J. Brown, Synodical President |
| Kansas | Mrs. L. L. Uhls, Synodical President |
| Kentucky | Mrs. E. S. Porter, Synodical President |
| Michigan | Mrs. J. K. Mitchell, Synodical President<br>Mrs. J. C. Hoskins, Advisory-Vice-President substituting for Mrs. Oren Scotten, Honarary Vice-President of the Woman's Board. |
| Minnesota | Mrs. W. C. Weld, substituting for Mrs. Julius E. Miner, Synodical President |
| Montana | Mrs. Richardson, substituting for Mrs. Wm. Fergus, Synodical President |
| Nebraska | Mrs. Hilliker, substituting for Mrs. C. L. Johnson, Synodical President. |
| New England | Mrs. A. McDonald Paterson, Synodical President |
| New Jersey | Mrs. W. C. Albertson, Synodical President |
| Missouri | Mrs. Duncan Brown, Synodical President |
| New York | Miss Maude A. Rice, substituting for Mrs. George C. Yeisley, Synodical President |
| Ohio | Mrs. W. E. Dickens-Lewis, Synodical President |

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| Oklahoma | Mrs. W. H. Hendren, Synodical President |
| | Mrs. O. E. Cramer, " Corresponding Secretary |
| | Mrs. W. A. Jennings, President of Oklahoma Presbyterial Society |
| | Mrs. W. E. Allen, Synodical Treasurer of Oklahoma |
| | Mrs. W. N. Kerr, Treasurer of Cimmarron Presbyterial Society |
| Pennsylvania | Mrs. Bion B. Williams, Synodical President |
| | Mrs. Charles H. Greenleaf, Advisory Vice-President of the Woman's Board |
| Tennessee | Mrs. A. H. Dailey, Synodical President |
| West Virginia | Mrs. J. M. N. Downes, Synodical President |
| Wisconsin | Mrs. I. D. Mishoff, Synodical President |

The following administrative officers were present: -

Mrs. F. S. Bennett, President
Miss Lucy H. Dawson, General Secretary
Miss Mabel M. SHeibley,Assistant Secretary
Miss Mary W. Torrence, Treasurer
Mrs. M. J. Gildersleeve, Secretary for Missionary Education
Miss M. Josephine Petrie, Secretary for Young People's Work
Miss Theodora Finks, Editor of Home Mission Monthly
Miss Florence G. Tyler, Executive Secretary for Student Work
Miss Mary Ashby Cheek, Secretary for Student Work.

Mrs. Bennett

This meeting of the Board with the representatives of the synodical organizations was called, not for general discussion of matters that might be of interest to us: it is not customary to call Board meetings in connection with meetings held at Assembly time. It is never wise for an incorporated body to move its place of meeting from its official headquarters. For that reason, I am saying this because while after we have disposed of the matter that has brought us together, anything that you desire can be brought up, I want to forestall all actions that shall bind the Board financially.

I know that there are two or three synodical presidents at least who did not know why this meeting was called; in order, therefore, that there may be no misunderstanding in our minds, it has seemed to me best to make a statement and then to have all the material in the case presented in detail. In making my preliminary statement, which I wish to make as brief as I possibly can, I wish to say only this;- Some months ago, I think in January, the Woman's Board of Home Missions received from the Synodical Society of Oklahoma a protest relative to the conduct of the work of the Woman's Board of Home Missions, making specific charges against an officer of the Board. Before I go on, however, let me say that the officer in question, the Superintendent of Schools, is in the building and is willing to be present throughout this meeting. He has remained outside because he wished that he should not by his presence hamper the discussion. I am quite frank in saying that it is against my judgment that he remains outside as I feel that this is a matter which should be thrashed out and if I am supported in my decision in this matter, he will be here during all the discussions. At the time when this protest was sent to the Woman's Board of Home Missions, it was also sent to the synodical presidents of the country, asking them to unite with Oklahoma in the protest and to unite in asking that the officer in question should be removed from his official position. A number of the synodical presidents communicated with us at headquarters; in a few cases sent us copies of the letters that they had sent in reply and in other cases said that they had made no reply. When this portest reached the office, I was in Cuba visiting our Mission Schools; upon my return I took the matter immediately to the Board. The Board appointed a committee to consider the resolutions and it was the judgment of the committee that it was difficult to carry on such matters as were presented by correspondence and that it would be much more desirable if the women of Oklahoma should come to New York where all records could be opened for their inspection, where files of correspondence are kept and where it would be a more satisfactory, an easier and a quicker way to arrive at some conclusion. This was communicated to the committee in Oklahoma, asking if they would come,- I believe the time set was "within three weeks." I might explain that the time limit was owing to the fact that we should ~~be~~ soon be scattering for spring meetings and there are only certain periods when we can get our official family together and it was felt desirable, as all matters of this kind create unrest in the minds of those who know concerning them, that the matter should be disposed of as soon as possible. The Oklahoma Committee did not desire to come to New York as it felt it was unwarranted expense to come then as they were coming at this time; in addition to this, one member of the Committee at least was visiting presbyterial societies and felt that she could not give up work for which she was promised. It was therefore decided to hold a meeting at the time when the Oklahoma Committee would be coming east for the Biennial.

It was the desire of the Woman's Board of Home Missions that the meeting which is being held today should, if possible, be held in New York City as we could not foresee what letters might be desired; when it is a statement of fact it is much more easy to settle it with a reference to correspondence than to put the word of one person against that of another person. That was our only reason for wishing to hold the meeting at New York. It seemed, however, impossible to have this meeting in New York and for that reason it has been called here. This seems to be all the explanation that it is necessary to make.

Before we go into the matter further, may I, not so much in my capacity as President but in my capacity as presiding officer of this meeting, knowing the metter to be discussed, may I say at once that it seems to me that we can very readily spend an interminable time upon a matter such as this which has come before us. I do not believe that we will profit by that process and that we must proceed in a most orderly manner. I do not say this with the slightest desire to have anything hidden that should be brought out for I know that the Woman's Board of Home Missions is ready to acknowledge that neither it nor any of its officers or members are perfect. They have made mistakes, but I believe that we will gain nothing by spending time over a mistake here or a mistake there. It is, as it seems to me, a question of policies which show in large relationships that we are here to discuss. The question before us must be whether the trend of the service given, the evident desire expressed in that service is such as you, our constituency, can approve. If the evident desire and policy of the Board are not such as you can approve, then this is the time to consider these things. No Board officer can alone be under criticism. It is the Board which must take the responsibility of the actions of its officers. Let us then look at the policies and not just at one instance here or one instance there, recognizing that there have been mistakes made. We ourselves are sometimes the first to recognize them. If our foresight was always as good as our hindsight we would not make them but we have made them and what is more, we shall probably make others in the future, being perfectly human. Now in closing, let me say that I hope we can have th fullest and the frankest and at the same time the most friendly discussion of this whole matter that is before us. I do want to say one more thing. I am not certain in my own mind just how we are to reach or to work a conclusion that shall be acceptable to all of you. I feel we must arrive at that. Just how I cannot say. That must be worked out in the course of this meeting. Shall we all of us keep our minds in quiet, shall we all of us be ready in absolute fairness to all concerned to strive with unprejudiced minds to look fairly and squarely at both sides of every point and then fearlessly reach our conclusions, whatever they may be, upon that basis. I will ask our secretary, Miss Dawson, if she will read the resolutions which came to the Woman's Board of Home Missions from the Synodical Society of Oklahoma.

**Mrs. Waid**

Madam Chairman, if it is in order I would like to make the motion that Mr. Allaben be called in.

Motion seconded by Mrs. Beebe.

Voted that Mr. Allaben be called in. (Mr. Allaben came in).

Resolutions from Oklahoma Synodical Society read by the Secretary, Miss Dawson, as follows:

# TO THE WOMAN'S BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# IN THE U. S. A.

We, the officers and members of the Woman's Synodical Society of Oklahoma, after careful and prayerful investigation and deliberation feel it our duty to call the attention of your Honorable Body to a few facts concerning the official actions of your Mr. M. C. Allaben.

FIRST: Under Mr. Allaben's administration, and apparently with your sanction and approval, over the protest of the Indian, the representatives of the Board in charge of the work, missionaries, ministers, and Societies in the section where these schools were located, the schools and mission stations have been closed for no good cause or reason whatsoever. Our Synod today with an Indian population of 150,000 is without a single Presbyterian School and we have repudiated every promise and hope ever given to the Indians of our State for a Christian education.

SECOND: Mr. Allaben has pursued most extravagant policies. It develops that during the past six or seven years there has been an almost reckless expenditure of sacred funds. Buildings have been erected, improvements provided at our mission stations in different sections of our country at a cost far above the cost of local construction. In a number of instances the type of these buildings and improvements was so unsuited to the needs of the field that our missionaries urged and pleaded for changes but were always overruled by the head of the school department. This is true also in the providing of supplies. It is common knowledge that many of the furnishings and even some of the food are being purchased in markets far from where our schools are located thus increasing the cost of maintenance because of added freight, etc. In one instance the freight alone on a shipment of common chairs was exactly what the chairs could have been purchased for in the local market. Mattresses are shipped by local freight hundreds of miles and of a grade entirely out of keeping with the purpose for which they are to be used.

THIRD: Mr. Allaben is most unwise in the selection of teachers for our mission schools placing the emphasis on the educational and athletic with the religious as a secondary matter or no matter at all. There was a time when the school work of the Woman's Board was a means to an end and that end was christian education and character and as long as that was the goal the school work was of a very high order although not always in charge of university or normal graduates but conscientious christian men and women. The time now spent in athletics was divided between athletics and the doing of some useful and productive outdoor labor.

It also develops that nearly all of the men and women, who have made conspicuous records as missionaries and workers, and have been connected with our work for a number of years, have within the past few years dropped out of the work feeling that it was useless to attempt missionary activities under the present administration.

THEREFORE: In view of the foregoing facts and believing it to be for the best interests of the Mission work, we respectfully request that the resignation of Mr. M. C. Allaben, Superintendent of Schools, be asked for and accepted at the earliest possible date.

(Signed) Mrs. E. T. Bowen

Lettie R. Cramer

Mrs. S. T. Corbitt

Clara Hendren

**Mrs. Bennett**

Before offering to you the reply of the Woman's Board of Home Missions, I would like to ask, for I think we have not this on our records, who is here from Oklahoma who signed the resolutions. I know Mrs. Hendren and Mrs. Cramer are here; who are substituting for Mrs. Bowen and Mrs. Corbitt.

**Mrs. Hendren**

Mrs. Allen is Mrs. Bowen's substitute
Mrs. Jennings is Mrs. Corbitt's substitute.

**Mrs. Bennett**

As soon as copies of the reply of the Woman's Board are distributed we will have it read. After this is read we will then go back and take it up seriatim, considering it point by point, giving full opportunity for statements and questions. We have simply chosen this way as the way that seemed most expeditious and helpful.

**Mrs. Hendren**

Was this reply sent to Oklahoma?

**Mrs. Bennett**

This reply was not sent to Oklahoma. Owing to the fact that the Oklahoma Committee might come to New York it was not prepared in time to be sent as we intended to do before they came; when it was prepared the question arose of mailing it to Oklahoma. You see it is manifolded. It was placed in the hands of a public officer as we do not do this work in our own office. Their machine broke down and the matter was held there, four or five days and time had so elapsed that you had left fot Philadelphia before it could reach you.

**Miss Dawson**

This was not prepared in time to be brought down when we came to Philadelphia for the Biennial.

**Mrs. Bennett**

A special messenger brought it down last week.

**Miss Dawson**

asked that an explanation of "Office Conference" and "School Committee" be made in order that references should be understood.

**Mrs. Bennett**

"Office Conference" is the group of administrative officers who are in the office every day, whereas the School Committee is made up of certain administrative officers and seven members of the Board. Office Conference is entirely within the office, whereas School Committee is some of these officers with seven Board members. Just bear in mind any questions of this kind that you may wish to take up.

**Miss Dawson**

here read the following reply of the Woman's Board to Oklahoma's protest;

Woman's Board of Home Missions
of the
Presbyterian Church in the United States of America
156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

To Whom it may Concern:-

With reference to the charges preferred by the Woman's Synodical Society of Oklahoma against the Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Marshall C. Allaben, the Woman's Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., in accordance with action taken at a regular meeting held May 11, 1920, makes reply as follows:-

1. CLOSING STATIONS.

It is charged that "under Mr. Allaben's administration the schools and mission stations have been closed for no good cause or reason whatsoever." Although the petition does not so read it is presumed that the only stations to which reference is made are those of Oklahoma but, if the petition refers to the entire field, the Board is prepared to show that good and sufficient reasons were presented in the case of each and every station that has been discontinued. The Board finds that during Mr. Allaben's administration only two stations in Oklahoma have been closed, namely, Elm Spring and Dwight.

(a) The following extract from the minutes of the Woman's Board under date of April 7th, 1914 gives the reasons for closing the boarding school at Elm Spring. This action reads as follows:-

"Although there has been a general understanding in the office that the development of Dwight as a permanent boarding school would involve the consolidation of Elm Spring with Dwight, it was not the intention of the Office to recommend that this be effected until additional dormitory accommodations should be provided at Dwight. The recommendation that the proposed consolidation be effected at the close of the current school year was based on what seemed to be a financial necessity. In view of the splendid encouragement contained in the report of receipts for the fiscal year just closed, the Office recommends that the Budget as presented be amended as follows, so as to continue Elm Spring for another year, but with the definite understanding that the consolidation shall be effected as soon as a new dormitory shall have been erected at Dwight."

Attention is also called to the following excerpt from the annual report of the Superintendents of Schools for the year ending March 31, 1914:-

"No one could visit Elm Spring and become acquainted with the atmosphere of this little home without being saddened by the thought that this work would eventually have to be discontinued, in view of the enlargement proposed at Dwight. We are face with this necessity, however, because of the advantages from the standpoint of economy. The expense of providing new quarters for our Elm Spring School and maintaining the work on such a basis as to meet the needs of the students would be very much greater than would be justified either by the local conditions or the resources of our Board, it being possible to care for all these students, and to give them greater advantages, at Dwight with a very much smaller actual expenditure. The work at Elm Spring has been richly blessed, and of course must be continued until its registration can be adequately cared for elsewhere."

It was subsequently decided to continue Elm Spring as a community station. Accordingly after the boarding school was discontinued at the end of the school year 1914-15, Miss Templeton, the principal, was continued on the field as field matron for two years, at the expiration of which time the station was transferred to the Board of Home Missions for the installation of a pastorate. The Board finds no record that any protests against either action were sent to the Board.

(b) The reasons governing the Board's action in the matter of the Dwight Indian Training School are fully covered by the following extracts from the Board's minutes:-

Action taken February 11, 1919.

"DWIGHT INDIAN TRAINING SCHOOL, MARBLE CITY, OKLAHOMA.

"WHEREAS the last is the fourth disastrous fire since February 1, 1912, and,

"WHEREAS the last fire has destroyed the only remaining dormitory, and

"WHEREAS there is at least ground for suspicion that some of these fires may have been of incendiary origin, and

"WHEREAS the permenant investment at Dwight may be fairly estimated at a sum not exceeding $25,000.- and

"WHEREAS there seems no question as to the need for Christian education on the part of the Five Civilized Tribes, and

"WHEREAS the Indians have manifested both their appreciation of the advantages and their loyalty to the ideals of Dwight School by continuing and constantly increasing their patronage of the institution in spite of all the discouraging conditions which have attended the development of the work during the last seven years, therefore

"BE IT RESOLVED

1 - That the Board record its unfaltering determination, under the guidance of our Heavenly Father, to go forward with the task thus committed to its trust, and

2 - That plans be initiated at the earliest possible date to make provision for the work.

3 - That the school be closed March 1, 1919, or sooner if necessary, and remain closed until the new plan shall have been developed.

4 - That the present site be offered for sale for the sum of $25,000.- as soon as the consent of the U. S. Government to the sale shall have been obtained, the cemetery to be reserved.

Voted that these resolutions be adopted."

Action taken February 25, 1919.

"After hearing the appeal from the faculty of Dwight for the continuance of the regular course of study during the rest of the school year, it was recommended from the floor that the faculty at Dwight be allowed to finish the school year under regulations laid down by the Officers of the Board acting in the absence of the Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Allaben.

Voted that this recommendation be approved."

The records show that numerous protests were lodged against the action taken by the Board in closing the school pending the development of the new plan but the Board is convicted that in view of the situation described in the resolutions adopted by the Board February 11, 1919, the Board acted wisely in declining to reconsider the action taken.

It should be further noted in this connection that in accordance with the resolutions adopted February 11, 1919, a Special Committee was appointed by the Board to make a study of the situation in Oklahoma with the view of carrying out the spirit of the resolutions referred to above. This Committee proceeded to Oklahoma at the earliest possible date in September 1919 and as a result of their consideration the following action was taken regarding the Oklahoma work by the Woman's Board, December 23rd, 1919:-

> "RESOLVED: That the Board inaugurate a community program similar to that now conducted in the Kentucky mountains at Wooton and Smith, that this community work be located in the center of an Indian population where it will minister to the untutored Indian of the back country.
>
> VOTED that this resolution be adopted.
>
> RESOLVED: That the site of the old Dwight Mission be utilized for hospital work, making use of the buildings now remaining for this purpose.
>
> VOTED that this resolution be adopted.
>
> RESOLVED: That a school to continue the work of Dwight School be established in Eastern Oklahoma, preferably near a small town, as soon as a suitable location is decided upon and funds are available for the erection of the building.
>
> VOTED that this resolution be adopted."

2. **EXTRAVAGANCE in Building Operations and Purchases.**

In answer to the charge that "Mr. Allaben has pursued most extravagant policies" and "that during the past six or seven years there has been an almost reckless expenditure of sacred funds" the Board submits the following statement under two heads, namely, BUILDING OPERATIONS and PURCHASES:-

(1) BUILDING OPERATIONS.

(a) It is charged that "buildings have been erected, improvements provided at the mission stations in different sections of our country that have cost far above the cost of local construction." The Board finds that in every case during Mr. Allaben's administration building contracts have been made with local contractors and these contracts have been given to the lowest reliable bidders, always in consultation with the missionary in charge of the station concerned.

(b) It is charged that "in a number of instances the type of these buildings and improvements was so unsuited to the needs of the fields that our missionaries urged and pleaded for changes but were always over-ruled by the head of the School Department." The Board finds that the following procedure has been regularly followed in building operations:-

First - The local superintendent on the mission field is requested to submit pencil sketches showing type of building desired, division of floor space and proposed location.

Second - These pencil sketches are then considered by the Superintendent of Schools, the General Secretary and the Treasurer.

Third - The pencil sketches are then sent to the Board's architect, either a local architect or an architect selected here in New York as circumstances may require, with such revisions as may have been suggested by the Office Conference, as a basis for preliminary sketches.

Fourth - The architect's sketches after being approved by the Office Conference are then submitted to the local superintendent for approval or suggestions as to revision.

Fifth - After the sketches have been returned from the field any proposed suggestions or revisions are considered by the Office Conference in consultation with the architect and the decision of the Office Conference is referred to the School Committee, or some special building committee that may be appointed, for further revisions or final approval, the recommendations of the local superintendent in every case, being submitted therewith.

Sixth - Upon final approval by the School Committee or by some sub-committee of the School Committee appointed for this special purpose, the architect is authorized to execute the working drawings and the required specifications, and in cooperation with the Superintendent of Schools and the local superintendent on the mission field to secure the necessary bids.

Seventh - Changes cannot be made in either the plans or specifications after the contracts have been let except upon the authority of the Board's architect as provided in the plans and specifications, but all requests for such changes except those of minor importance are passed upon by the Office Conference or the School Committee or some special building committee. It should be stated, however, in this connection that ordinarily the Officers of the Board amd Committees are guided as to such changes by the architect's advice. The Board finds that in no important instance has the Superintendent of Schools taken the responsibility of making a decision as to changes except upon the advice of the Board's architect and in conference with the General Secretary and Treasurer of the Board.

Eighth - Since the Board must assume the final responsibility for the utility and appearance of all buildings erected on the Board's property it is obvious that the corresponding authority for making final decisions as to all plans and specifications must rest with the Board.

(2) PURCHASES.

It is true "that many of the furnishings and even some of the food are being purchased in markets far from where our schools are located" but it does not follow as charged that thus there is an increase in "the cost of maintenance because of added freight, etc.". It is also true that "mattresses are shipped by local freight hundreds of miles", but the Board finds that these mattresses are not "of a grade entirely out of keeping with the purposes for which they are to be used." On the contrary the Board finds that these mattresses, both on the score of durability and sanitation, have given universal satisfaction, after having been tested for a period of more than eight years under the hard conditions to which they are of necessity subjected in the various schools and hospitals. The Board further finds on the subject of mattresses that during this period of eight years only one superintendent has ever intimated to the Superintendent of Schools that this mattress was not the most economical one that could be obtained. The Board is unable to find any record whatever of the instance mentioned in which "the freight alone on a shipment of common chairs was exactly what the chairs could have been purchased for in the local market."

The Board firmly believes that it has been the policy of the Superintendent of Schools from the beginning of his administration to purchase the most suitable equipment for all stations of the Board on the score of true economy and highest efficiency which involves always not primarily the original cost of the article required but rather its durability and serviceability. The cheapest equipment may easily be the most extravagant to purchase. The Board is confident that the Superintendent of Schools has labored faithfully and constantly in his endeavor to standardize the equipment continuously required, in conformity with the needs of the institutions in question, and on the basis of knowledge acquired through many field visitations and constant conferences and correspondence with the missionaries holding executive positions, and that it has been the consistent aim of the Superintendent of Schools to purchase both food supplies and equipment in the lowest markets, always taking delivery charges into consideration and regardless as to whether these markets are located near or far from the mission stations in question. The Board further finds that the Superintendent of Schools makes no claim that in every case these purchases have proved the wisest that could have been made, but the Board does find that they were the wisest that could have been made on the basis of the information available and that every possible endeavor has been made to profit by experience in all these purchases.

Such large savings were made in one group of schools by cooperative and quantity purchases that, when the war was declared in April 1917 and an emergency in both the food and equipment market was thus created, the man who had demonstrated in this particular group of schools the savings that could be effected by quantity purchases, made at the most advantageous time of the year, was given a blanket commission to provide the schools with suitable food supplies for the ensuing school year. Due to the pressing character of the emergency and the great uncertainty that prevailed as to market conditions it was impossible for this purchasing agent to obtain all the desired information from the widely scattered fields in which the Board is carrying on its work and accordingly in a number of instances mistakes of a more or less serious nature were made; the outstanding fact, however, is that during this first year of the war, when there was a grave shortage of food and fuel supplies which necessitated the closing of many institutions throughout the country, the Board's stations were all kept supplied with the necessary fuel and food for the conduct of the work.

On the basis of the experience acquired during this first year of its operation it was decided to restrict the activities of the Purchasing Agency to the eastern field, in which it is located, insofar as food supplies were concerned, with the understanding that stations outside this field were to avail themselves of the Purchasing Agency in cases where savings might thus be effected. At the expiration of this second year of the Purchasing Agency it was found that the sum of $5000. had been saved over and above all the expenses of maintaining the agency.

During the year which has just closed it has been shown that the principle of cooperative buying, in large quantities, directly from the factories wherever possible, and always in the lowest markets - a principle obviously sound in theory - is susceptible of practical application in making the large purchases that are required for the maintenance of the Board's different enterprises. It must further be noted that the last three years have been the worst possible in which to demonstrate the economy of a central purchasing agency, and at the same time they have been years which have challenged all agencies charged with the expenditure of trust funds to exercise every possible precaution to the end that every dollar contributed should be utilized to the full extent of its purchasing power. To sum up under the head of purchases, the Board finds that the Superintendent of Schools is utilising every available means of supplying both food and equipment to the Board's institutions at the lowest possible cost.

### 4. CHARACTER OF MISSIONARIES.

It is charged that "Mr. Allaben is most unwise in the selection of teachers for our mission schools placing the emphasis on the educational and athletic qualifications with the religious as secondary matter or no matter at all." The Board does not know of a single instance in which the Superintendent of Schools in the selection of a missionary has placed "the emphasis on the educational and athletic qualifications with the religious as a secondary matter or no matter at all." The Board finds in this charge a grave and wholly unjustifiable reflection upon the character and Christian consecration of its 258 commissioned missionaries who are now serving the cause of Christ with unquestionable fidelity and splendid devotion in the stations where the Board is conducting its work. The Board desires to register its entire confidence in the men and women who constitute the commissioned workers of the Board and its unqualified belief that under no missionary agency is any higher type of Christian service performed or any nobler spirit of Christian loyalty manifested.

### 5. WITHDRAWAL OF MISSIONARIES.

It is charged "that nearly all of the men and women who have made conspicuous records as missionaries and workers and have been connected with our Board for a number of years have within the past few years dropped out of the work feeling that it was useless to attempt missionary activities under the present administration." The Board after reviewing all the principal withdrawals from mission fields during the past eight years finds that the records of the office constitute a complete refutation of this charge. Indeed the Board cannot find a single case of withdrawal under the circumstances described.

**Mrs. Bennett**

You have heard the papers which have been presented; first, the resolutions received from Oklahoma and second, the formal official reply of the Woman's Board of Home Missions. As I said in introducing this matter, we will waste time if we try to discuss this whole matter hit or miss. It seems to me fair to ask you to confine your discussions to the subject which is under consideration at any given time in order that we may as fully and as satisfactorily as possible discuss that and dispose of it as may be deemed wisest and best to you. I therefore ask first of all your consideration of the first statement which is headed "Closing Stations:" As you have read this but once, I am sure you will bear with me, as I have gone over it a number of times, if I will take up the salient points lest in reading it once, they might have escaped the attention of some of you. The Board was charged with "Under Mr. Allaben's administration, and apparently with your sanction and approval, over the protest of the Indian, the representatives of the Board in charge of the work, missionaries, ministers, and Societies in the section where these schools were located, the schools and mission stations have been closed for no good cause or reason whatsoever. Our Synod today with an Indian population of 150,000 is without a single Presbyterian School and we have repudiated every promise and hope ever given to the Indians of our State for a Christian education." In the case of Elm Spring we can give reasons and in the case of Dwight can give the present status of the situation, the official resolutions that the Board has on record of its intention of conducting further work in Oklahoma when funds will permit of its doing so. Shall we take that one matter, the question of closing stations .......... We are here to find if this answer is satisfactory to those who have made the charge and if not to ask them to present specific instances to the charge. I therefore leave this matter before you for further consideration as you may deem wise.

**Mrs. Hendren**

Has your information on this subject (closing stations) come entirely through your correspondence in general?

Mrs. Bennett

Our information comes through general correspondence and also from the knowledge which the Board has at all times of the work that is being done. No school can be closed without action by the Board itself approving such action. The Superintendent of Schools has no power to close a school. It would be impossible to go over in detail the matters for which the superintendent of schools is responsible but a brief outline might clarify the situation. The Superintendent of Schools in conference with the School Committee prepares the budget of expenses for schools; this being a detailed budget showing the amount for salaries, the amount for maintenance, also for buidlings and repairs for the following year. Within the limits of this budget the Superintendent of Schools has the responsibility of expending the funds appropriated. He cannot, however, transfer items of expense from one budge to another budget without specific action by the Board. If he finds that the amount under one item is too large and the amount under another item too small, he may bring to the Board a recommendation that a transfer of funds may be made and upon the Board's approval this can be done. Many matters that come to the Board are not scrutinized as to the last detail but I am sure if you were in our places and knew the burden of work you would realize that that is not always possible. We trust our officers for the responsibilities placed upon them.

Miss Hyatt

May I ask that an explanation be made of how these budgets are arrived at.

Mrs. Bennett

Miss Hyatt has asked that I explain the manner in which a budget is arrived at. A blank is sent out from headquarters, asking each field to requisition the amount it wants for the next year. The Superintendent of the School, if it is a school with more than one worker, is asked to state the number of workers needed and the department for which they will be needed, the amount which he or she thinks would be needed for maintenance, food, etc. - repairs upon buildings and also requests for new buildings. Needless to say it is not always possible with justice to all and favor to none to give those exactly as they come but they are given consideration in making up the final budget which must be planned, one field's needs against the needs of all the fields but it is made on a budget which comes from the field originally.

**Miss White**

As Chairman of School Committee the resolutions were sent to me and of course as Chairman of School Committee I am deeply interested in the subject of closing schools. I would like to ask the committee from Oklahoma to state just what they mean by the last sentence in their first charge, - "Our Synod today with an Indian population of 150,000 is without a single Presbyterian School and we have repudiated every promise and hope ever given to the Indians of our State for a Christian education." By "we" did the Committee mean the Synod or the Presbyterian Church? Just how have "we repudiated every promise?"

**Mrs. Bennett**

Who is to be spokesman from Oklahoma?

It was decided that Mrs. Hendren, Synodical President, would be the spokesman.

**Mrs. Hendren**

I would like to say first of all, before answering that question, that Oklahoma never having seen these, may not have their own evidence just gathered together to take up point by point as you may desire it done. We had no knowledge that this had been done this way and are there fore a little at a disadvantage. In answer to the question that Miss White asks I think by "we" we meant Oklahoma, as Presbyterians in Oklahoma. I do not know whether that answers your question as you wanted it.

**Miss White**

You say that the Presbyterians of Oklahoma have repudiated it?

**Mrs. Hendren**

We have not in Oklahoma conducted our work among the Indians as we should have done. As a denomination we have no school work now as other denominations have.

We felt as Presbyterians we were not doing our duty to the Indians in Oklahoma.

**Miss White**

The Oklahoma Society had already received the resolutions passed by the Board after the Committee had been down in Oklahoma to investigate and had been informed that we were intending to open three phases of work there and to give them a good deal more than had been done in the past years and therefore we have not repudiated our promise to the Indians or to Oklahoma Society and this came into our hands after the resolutions had been passed and sent out. That is why I ask.

**Mrs. Hendren**

We did have your intention and I think I made reply that Oklahoma would approve of community work and thought probably it would be a very good thing. I wrote Miss Sheibley or someone that we did not approve of the hospital particularly but we did not mind if you wanted it. We thought it was about the most unfavorable place that a hospital for Indians could be put. The other resolution was the one about the school which was the thing that we were most vitally interested in. I believe I did say that for myself and not from synodical that if the hospital was to be a training school for Indian girls to go out among their own people, I myself would personally think it a very good thing but that they must have some other education before they were put in the hospital. That was my own personal opinion and not synodical. I put that in the letter. In the resolutions the school was of course the last while we felt that the school was the most important thing. We felt that if there was money for the hospital and community work, there was money for the school work and we felt that if you wanted to keep the location at Dwight which is of course a distoric point, synod could understand why you wanted it. We felt it a far better place for a school than a hospital, as part of the school equipment was there, we felt it easier to go on with school work than a hospital. It could be carried on with less expense before the hospital was started, before the new venture was tried.

**Mrs. Bennett**

These resolutions make no reference to the future work at Dwight. That is a matter outside of this, except as throwing a side light. I think we will not discuss that. This is a case of closing stations. We have not closed Dwight except as it was closed by fires and have promised to do work in place of it. As I understand the Oklahoma petition, this was not based upon the relationship to Dwight, this was based on a much, larger, fuller matter. Am I right?

**Mrs. Hendren**

I do not understand the question.

**Mrs. Bennett**

This paper did not come to us on the basis of Dwight. It was on a broader basis than that, was it not?

**Mrs. Hendren**

We did not mean the closing of Dwight; we did not mean the closing of one school, it was the field at large we were speaking of. One statement I would like to make in regard to the statement made by Mrs. Bennett "Closing Stations." We in Oklahoma might know a little about that which the Board did not know, that never came to them. We have a gentleman who stood ready to furnish everything for the continuance of everything at Dwight, that the school need not be closed. It may be that the Board did have this offer and that it did not think it wise. To us in Oklahoma it seemd a very wise way as a school of another denomination is caring for the overflow from Dwight in exactly the same manner that Mr. Matthews offered for Dwight until a new school was ready.

**Mrs. Bennett**

The offer did not come officially from Mr. Matthews. He did speak to me about the matter and I believe spoke to the other members of the Board. A number of us have been at Dwight and therefore know something of the location. I am very fearful as I said, getting into a discussion of this matter. I am perfectly willing to bring this matter of Dwight up if it bears light on this situation. You have noticed, if you have followed this paper with care, the ~~following~~ two actions taken by the Board.

as per pages 11,12, and 13 of this paper. The first action you have noted was that the children should be sent home at once. Many protests came from the field and from the Faculty so this action was reconsidered )during the absence of Mr. Allaben and of myself from New York) and permission was given [redacted] by the Board for the keeping open of the school during the remainder of the year.

Our dormitories were burned. Three years ago, in May 1917, I was in Dwight, coming up from Dallas, Texas. I was very much disturbed when there by the way in which some children were housed. I knew then and I know now that it was over seal on the part of our Superintendent in taking more children than we were prepared to care for into the school. I said at Dwight and I said undesitatingly since, that however the children might live at home we had no business to have them housed under such conditions and that I for one, representing the Woman's Board, could not stand for having those children placed in small buildings, one with dirt floors another year. I knew that the Supt. Of Schools had said again and again that the children must not be kept there and after I had been there I added my voice to his on that matter. When the question came up of the continuation of the school for the remainder of the year, it meant using such places as that and using also the basement of a school building. Now, as I say, and I am quite ready to take my share of the responsibility and we as official people are responsible. We had had the greatest tragedy that the Woman's Board had ever had. I did not feel that we dared to face the responsibility of illness that might come from overcrowding the children. Owing to pressure from the Faculty we did, however, hold the children and no ill effects resulted. In view of the fact that there was a serious question in the minds of many as to whether Dwight should be the place where school was to be continued, it seemed unwise to expend money on temporary arrangements. You have noted in one of those resolutions that it says that "there is at least ground for suspicion that some of these fires may have been of incendiary origin." I think I can assure you that it was a matter of very serious concern with the Woman's Board who are responsible for the children under their care as to whether they should again have children in a place where there could be even a slight suspicion of such a thing. The Woman's Board, I think I can answer for the Woman's Board, in say that we meant 1, 2 and 3 to be a climax rather than an anticlimax, first stating the smaller thing. I can easily see how it might have been taken in another way.

**Miss White**

As Chairman of the School Committee and therefore one of the Committee that went to Oklahoma to investigate conditions, may I ask if I may explain those resolutions of the three kinds of work to be done in Oklahoma. While we were there we made it our business to talk to everybody who knew about Indian work and everybody who would be interested in Indian work. We met these same ladies in Muskogee and met also as a committee, Gabe Parker, who represents the government of the United States in Oklahoma as their Indian Field Secretary. He is an Indian himself and he brouhgt in the Commissioner of Education for the Five Civilized Tribes - the man's name I have forgotten- you would never suspect he was an Indian but he was. He took us up to a map in Mr. Parker's office, showing Indian schools and the kind of Indian work done by the Government, other denominations and societies down in Oklahoma and explained what he thought was the wisest way for us to approach this whole situation. We talked over schools with him and found that they are well developed in Oklahoma. The Government schools are very fine in Oklahoma and they have schools that can take care of their Indian population if the children will attend. This does not say that there is not reason for Christian education of the Indians. Mr. Parker thought it wise for us to have an Indian school that would strangthen the children with Christian education while they were young and while they were particularly in the adolescent age but as soon as we spoke of medical work he said, "Ah, there you have touched it. We have had Indians come here who are 30 or more miles away from any hospital whatever and when they travel to a hospital for medical attention they find the hospital is crowded and cannot take them in." Great need of hospital and medical work is needed for the Indians. Nearest to Muskogee was Fort Sill, 30 or 40 miles away. It would be very helpful if we could have a small hospital for Indian people and that would include education of Indian girls as nurses. When we came to the subject of the primitive Indian, the Indian in the back country and unreached by the work done in Oklahoma, he said that the best thing we could do was to educate boys and girls and send them back to Indian communities. You know how different it is for them to accept conditions or to remain there or in any way change conditions of those old settled Indians in their way of living and if we could educate the community for the boy and girl, we would be doing our best for the Indian. When we were in Sallisaw looking at sites that had been offered we met Mr. Shannon who was in Government employ and went back into the mountain country with him, he told us he could take us if we only had time to communities which are absolutely non-Christian and where they worship spirits and fetishes. He said that community work was the best thing that we could give these people. When talking about it he said, "They need Christian schools." We are doing our very best to develop a plan for a Christian school in Oklahoma. We have had out eyes set on the hope of getting some one of the schools already built that we might develop. This is the reason why we have put in those three phases of work. It was in consultation with the advice of those who knew Indian affairs better than we do, who were Indians themselves and who have made life studies of the needs of the Indian in Oklahoma.

Mrs. Bennett

Will you mention schools that were closed to which you were referring?

Mrs. Hendren

Information that had come to us from workers on the field. I believe especially from Utah, Day Schools in Utah.

Mrs. Bennett

Where were they located?

Mrs. Hendren

Cannot speak to you from my mind.

Mrs. Bennett

I am not asking Mr. Allaben to answer these questions for I feel that there will be question that nobody else can answer. I am not asking Mr. Allaben because I think it is better for the School Department to be kept out of this unless it is necessary for us to ask him. Is any Board member ready to speak about Day Schools in Utah?

**Mrs. Louderbough**

Would it not be better if Oklahoma would tell us what particular schools they have in mind in Utah that were closed?

**Mrs. Bennett**

Mrs. Hendren, have you the names of the schools in Utah?

**Mrs. Hendren**

I can send them when I get home.

**Mrs. Bennett**

If possible I should like to stick to matters which can be settled here today. I will say a word simply that we may be clear concerning this question about Utah, because we do not want to pass these things over. Anyone who had been connected with the Board for the last few years knows that the work in Utah has undergone an absolute change. When I came into the Board 25 years ago, I can speak from experience, the work in Utah was stressed on the little Day School. I have seen the schools go through the grades, first the successful mission school in the small community with no educational facilities, then the public school system growing until it has become in the community an efficient and well developed and fine organization. I do not mean I have seen it with my eyes but have been cognizant of the fact in my knowledge of the work. The children have gradually been withdrawn into the public schools which is right as we were not competitors of the public school system, and our scchools have retained the children who were not up to the grade and therefore found it hard to get to the public school or who were now out of the public school because of misbehavior or various other reasons. I have seen the Woman's Board withdraw from other places because a Mission teacher had prepared the way for the pastor who went in and took charge of a church and there was no further need of a Mission school there. I have seen it become necessary in Utah for the great emphasis of the work of our Board to be on training those who were a little older in order that they might become leaders amongst the people there and therefore the great emphasis is being placed on Wasatch and New Jersey Academy with the main emphasis on Wasatch. We are spending considerably more in Utah today than we were ten years ago. Mr. Allaben can you tell me how much more?

**Mr. Allaben**

Not able to answer off hand.

**Mrs. Bennett**

We have a definite policy, not hit or miss, because we feel that the time for one type of work had passed and time for another had come. We are a country that moves rapidly.

**Mrs. Mitchell**

If I were the Committee and had received notice of this meeting, I would have brought every possible evidence or reason why I had made these charges. If they have not come with the necessary information and evidence and cannot explain to us why they sent the resolutions, I cannot see the object of this meeting.

**Mrs. Hendren**

We have plenty of evidence with us, but have not had opportunity to give it to you. You must understand that Oklahoma did not know that synodical presidents were to be at this meeting. I was only informed yesterday that synodical presidents had been invited to this meeting. I supposed we were to meet with the Committee. May I say that my statement about schools in Utah was from a pastor who was in charge of Wasatch, that is, was a pastor of the field in which Wasatch is. He gave me the information that I had.

**Mrs. Bennett**

Who was he?

**Mrs. Hendren**

Rev. Norton

**Mrs. Waid**

I rise to move that Oklahoma give evidence in any way it wishes.
Seconded by Mrs. Mitchell. This motion was carried.

**Mrs. Bennett**

I would be glad to have Oklahoma present its evidence in any way they desire.

Mrs. Hendred, will you come forward?

Mrs. Hendren

I would like to say, first of all, and I hope I will not be taking any valuable time in saying it, that when Oklahoma Committee took up this matter, it was with no thought of any ill will towards the Woman's Board and it was with no thought of making the charges against the Woman's Board. We did not realize that we were doing that until a communication came from Miss Fraser of California saying that our charges were against the Woman's Board and not against Mr. Allaben. We had not thought of making charges against the Woman's Board and their policy. Our evidence was such that we felt that the Supt. Of Schools had authority to act and we did not know whether the Woman's Board understood entirely all about it. Our greatest fear was that we might injure the work and for that reason we did not give the word out except to the synodical and presbyterial officers. We felt that if matters came out before those well grounded in the work, they would be safe in their hands. We were very careful about this. In Oklahoma there is one presbyterial that does not agree with my decision of not putting the matter out over the states. They said nothing was ever gained by secrecy; the rest of the presbyterials upheld me in that and I feel yet that it was the wisest thing to do. There was also I think the impression that Oklahoma had the desire of bringing this matter up at a public meeting. It never entered our heads, as we expected a meeting with the Committee. We did not know that synodical presidents were to be here but are very glad that they are. We are very sorry we caused the Board to come from New York as we had said that the Committee would go to New York and did not know until the announcement was made from the platform that the meeting was to be here.

Mrs. Bennett

Mail must be en route because we wrote telling you of this.

Mrs. Hendren

We did not receive the letter. The evidence I will ask our Corresponding Secretary to read as she has it in her possession.

**Mrs. Mitchell**

You certainly must have intended that the synodical presidents should know of the situation or your committee would not have sent the resolutions to them.

**Mrs. Hendren**

We did mean it to go to the presidents.

**Mrs. Mitchell**

It would seem to me it would have been better to communicate with the Woman's Board directly.

**Mrs. Cramer**

The first one we wnat to read is a communication from Mr. F. L. Schaub who was in the work a number of years, first at Dwight and then at Allison-James. He gave us his testimony and evidence, as shown in extracts from letters to Board or Board members.

**Mrs. Bennett**

Will you give the date of the communications as I think it would help us to keep matters clear.

**Mrs. Cramer**

The first is a copy of a communication of April 6, 1920 from Mr. F. L. Schaub accompanying copies of earlier correspondence which he had with the Board. We in Oklahoma have had opportunity to be in touch with workers quite a little bit and so we are taking these letters from the workers in the order they were written so you will see how is has come and seems to be carried out by other workers as years go by.

Muskogee, Oklahoma,
April 6, 1920.

Mrs. O. E. Cramer,
713 West Broadway,
Muskogee, Ohlahoma.

My dear Mrs. Cramer:-

I have your request for a statement of my judgment as to the policies and management of the mission schools conducted by the Woman's Board of Home Missions, as headed up by Mr. M. C. Allaben, Superintendent.

I severed my connection with the Board seven years ago and I have concluded that I will let my reasons for resigning answer your question. I take from my files the copies of two letters to officers of the Board, and a part of a personal letter to a third.

May I ask you to return this correspondence when it has served its purpose.

Very sincerely yours,

(signed) F. L. SCHAUB.

Copy of the close of a personal letter to an officer of the Woman's Board, March 10, 1913 from Mr. F. L. Schaub.

"I blame the altitude for my physical condition, but it is the polite way to avoid details. Certain ends of "156" are enough to drive a man to Las Vegas (location of state Insane Asylum). As soon as I can find the proper words in the dictionary to answer for a resignation, the same goes in. I regret that there is very little hope of seeing some of you women, before I step down and out. There are some things that you ought to know if you are going to continue the school work. The chances are that you know enough "already yet" to give a few of you nervous "prosperity."

With best wishes, I am

Very cordially yours,

F.L. SCHAUB.

April 9, 1913.

Mrs M. C. Allaben,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Allaben:

Yours of the 5th is at hand, and since it is your wish to run these schools blindly, and do the thing that cannot help but thwart the purpose of the work, I as a servant of the Board have no more to say, but as a part of the Presbyterian Church, and a Presbyter, I may some day claim the right and duty of protest.

My connection with the Home Board, the Woman's Board, and my relationship with all of the School Superintendents and officers of the Boards, dates back many years. All of our relationship has been pleasant and helpful. Hearty cooperation has been the pass work of our fellowship. The letter you write does not sound like the officers of the Woman's Board that I know. Experience has always had a little weight while all of the policies presented by the field were not always adopted, when it came to such a matter as appointments, I have never known a man but what was glad to get recommendations.

In the matter of appointments for here, did you think for one moment that' I made them for personal reasons? If you did you are very much mistaken. The hardest part of my work has been to make such recommendations as I did this year, and you will remember that you asked for them. To let personal reasons influence me has been far from me. I think too much of this work and the opportunity it affords, to do a thing of that kind. To teel the truth, were it not for my family, I would want to stay here next year, even if I knew it would mean my death. As I have told you before, I consider it the greatest opportunity in the Home field, and I am jealous of it.

My physical condition is such that I must now offer my formal resignation, to take effect not later than June first. As I wrote you yesterday, I may not be able to remain until May first.

Since some of the matters that I have placed before you, such as summer vacations for the workers, etc. You will need to attend to the same at once or have my successor do so."

Yours truly,

F.L.SCHAUB? Superintendent.

April 10, 1913.

My dear Mrs. Gildersleeve:

My resignation went to Mr. Allaben yesterday. It makes me very sad when I think of severing my connection with the Board, its work and workers. More so when with that resignation I feel called upon to say a few words to the School Department. I am anxious that you, with the other officers of the Board, know that my feeling toward you and your work is the same as it has always been. I can defend and fight for your work to the last ditch. If I have a fight, it is with the School Department and not with the Board.

I hold that the School Department is out of harmony with the work and purpose of the Woman's Board. That the tendencies of the Department are such as are and will dissipate the work that has been developed at a great cost and has been greatly blessed of God. All fields where the workers have previously been in touch with the Board feel like this. We are helpless. There is no recourse. There is no hope of improvement. There is no sympathy based on a knowledge of our needs. There is no knowledge of our work. It seems to me that the only show for some of us is to get out and be in a position to say what we please, The work is too great to waste it. This field in New Mexico is the new China of America.

My training in the service of the Board has been that all of the officers at the Board rooms have an interest and part of this work, the same as all the workers on a field have a part in the work. It has come to the place that when the "School Department" leaves the office for ten days or two weeks, we are notified not to write letters to the office, and in case of something ver urgent, we are to wire to a transient address. There may be a plausible excuse for such an order to fields a thousand miles away, but to an "old-timer", that is disloyalty to the Board, and from the very first has aroused a spirit of resentment. This work is too great to be a one man work, and to be very plain, especially when that man is one that does not understand the situation and has never manifested the least disposition to learn. Again to be plain, everyone of the experienced men on the field feel that theri resignations would be received with joy. I am telling this as I would tell it before the School Department and the officers of the Board. It is a serious matter. The distance between Sante Fe and Atlanta is so great that I cannot afford to attend the Annual Meeting, if it were nearer I would surely go. There is another year coming.

As you know, some of the Synods here in the West are most unreasonable in their attitude toward the Home Board. I have no sympathy with their demands, and have used what little influence I may have, against the movement. Presbytery meets here next week, and what effort will be made to have Presbytery demand its prerogative in an active share in the management of the schools within its bounds, I do not know. It has been my plan to watch proceedings very closely and try and thwart any such plans. In the light of Mr. Allaben's letter I have changed my mind. As a choice between two evils, I feel that the schools would be just as safe in the hands of a committee of Presbytery, as in the hands of the present School Department. As I see it now, I think I shall let matters take their own course. There may nothing come of it.

Physically I am not any better. All of these things have had their part in aggravating the trouble. I feel that my hope for recovery is to get out from under the strain and into the open.

In closing I want to say once more, that I have only the most kindly feelings toward the Woman's Board, and no matter how hard you may feel it necessary to"sit" upon me for what I have said, I will contimue to love you and your work, and pray God's choicest blessings upon you. What I have said is for the work's sake, and some day it may bear fruit.

Very sincerely yours,

F.L. SCHAUB.

Copy of letter from Mr. Ross to Oklahoma Committee, April 1920.

The quotations in this accompanying letter were taken from a letter written by Mrs. Bennett in reply to the frist letter Mr. Ross wrote her after the visit of Mr. Allaben, the Supt. of the School Department to Menaul School in Oct. 1916.

Mr. Allaben is the man referred to as the Lieutenant. He came out supposedly for a visit to the school. He came by Chamisal, N.M. to see a Mr. Delfido Cordova and get from him a list of the teachers at the Menaul School who might report against Mr. Ross the Superintendent. Mr. Cordova was ready to find fault because of the fact that he had been a member of the faculty the preceeding year and was not recommended for reappointment. Mr. Allaben rode in a car with Mr. Ross from Santa Fe about seventy-five miles, but on the trip asked nothing about the School except in a general way. He had not been at the school fifteen minutes until he began to hold secret conferences with certain of the faculty members. This was kept up Thursday and Friday and on Saturday he was away. On Sunday night Mr. Ross saw a light in the laundry late at night and went over to see waht the trouble was, and on approaching cautiously he heard voices and heard his name mentioned. He then listened, of course, and according to the old saying, Eaves droppers never hear any good thing about themselves, it was true in this case. He heard Mr. McConnell, the principal say to Miss Heiskell, the laundry matron, something about like the following; "Mr. Allaben says Mr. Ross is to be relieved and when asked what it meant she was told that it was just an easy way of saying he was to be fired. Understand please that Mr. Allaben had been there for over two days and had not even mentioned the fact to Mr. Ross, the Supt. Of the School, that there was any investigation of any kind on, and you can imagine such a statment from one teacher to another was somewhat disturbing. Well, he quietly crept away. On Mr. Allaben's return business matters pertaining to the school were discussed. And when the mention of anything concerning the teachers came up, Mr. Allaben simply said, "We will discuss the whole faculty situation together after a while." Late in the afternoon Mr. Allaben said, "Mr. Ross, do you know the situation our here and that you are universally disliked by all the teachers?" Mr. Ross told him that he knew a little about the situation since he had been on the job for about eighteen years, but that he did not know the fact mentioned and did not believe it. Mr. Allaben insisted that it was true, and Mr. Ross mentioned the names of some of the teachers he felt were not disliking him. Mr. Allaben intimated that all but one were against him, but the following morning acknowledged that they did not all dislike him but all had criticisms of some of his decisions and actions. Mr. Ross then said he had criticisms of some of his own actions and did not claim to live above criticisms. Well after another day of conferences, the greater part being put in by Mr. Allaben pleading with Mr. Ross to quietly resign and take a year's pay and a vacation and at the end of the time find something else to do; and Mr. Ross insisting that there should be a full meeting of the faculty with Mr. Allaben presiding and that everyone should have a chance to have his or her say and each bring forth his criticism publicly - the meeting was arranged for. Mr. Allaben insisted however, that to have an open meeting and allow the teachers to speak out their criticisms would simply stir up a fuss. Mr. Ross insisted that the fuss was up already and that it was simply a matter of justice that he was asking for and said that he could not deny the things they might tell if they were true, for the whole bunch would be present and he could not deny anything they told that was true, but on the other hand they would not dare tell things before all the faculty that were not true. Finally, however, Mr. Ross yielded to Mr. Allaben and agreed to announce to the teachers that he would resign at the end of the present school year. Mr. Allaben had promised that he would send all the present faculty members to other fields and that he would send in a new Supt. with a new faculty throughtout and give him a start without anything that might be the cause of a faction. He did want to keep the principal but finally agreed that he should go. This agreement was utterly ignored. Some of the teachers were sent away, but five or six were left. I do not know that this had any bearing except that it was simply a falsehood out and out. Mr. Allaben did what to put the principal in as superintendent but a committee from Pres. objected and in this he used judgment, in that he did not insist.

During the supposedly investigation, onlu those members of the faculty who were known to be opposed to Mr. Ross were called on for information. One who had been in the school for only three months had a long conference with Mr. Allaben and one who had been there sixteen years and another who had been there for five years were not allowed to have a word, because they were known to be favorable to Mr. Ross.

The coincident mentioned above about the conversation in the laundry which showed that Mr. Allaben had made his announcement of the decision, before ever telling Mr. Ross what he was there for or before allowing him a word or even before he knew what was up, shows that he had his mind made up before coming there. For a man to conduct what he pretended to be a fair trial or investigation and announce his decision before he had taken the evidence seems to be rather unjust.

There were three people against Mr. Ross, and they had influenced others more or less. First, Mr. Cordova, and the reasons have already been given. He was not recommended for reappointment because he was not qualified to do the work that was required. He had not musical or athletic ability and there was needed a man who could assist the boys in the hand work and on the athletic field.

Second, Mr. McConnell who was anxious to be Superintendent and felt he would be appointed if the vacancy could be made. Third, Miss Hart who was small boy's matron. She was discrete in her allowing older boys to call on her in her rooms, in fact, was the talk of the school. Mr. Allaben was told at the time of the investigation of an occasion when the boys were going off in the wagon and one was missing. Someone asked "Where is M))))?" and the reply was "He has gone to kiss Miss Hart goodbye." Mr. Allaben replied to the story "And I don't doubt but it was true." Yet in the face of believing such stuff, and because this trouble had grown largely out of the fact that the Supt. was trying to enforce a ruling by the Woman's Board against just such conditions, he was virtually fired. He resigned under pressure at the urgent demand of his Superior Officer and without being given a chance to be heard or refute the gossip on which the whole matter was worked up.

Referring to the statement which was made on the platform at Menaul School a year later, which is given in the letter to Mrs. Bennett I wish to explain this. Mr. Allaben was present at the Commencement the year 1917, the first year after the change in Supt. and he found the local atmosphere was rather cool toward him, I suppose because of his action in making the change and he felt that he must in some way justify his actions, so he told on the platform, according to witnesses who were there that he had tried to persuade Mr. Ross to take a year off and return at the beginning of the school year in 1917 to take up the work again, and that he parted from Mr. Ross at Santa Fe with that understandingl but on reaching the office he met with a great surprise when he found Mr. Ross' resignation awaiting him. I did not personally hear that statement, but had it told to me at first hand, by people who did hear it. The facts in the case, have been given and there was no resignation sent in, for Mr. Allaben took the matter in his omw hands and said, "You need not send in a formal resignation, but leave it to me to place before the Board". Just why I do not know, unless he felt fearful of the attitude of the Board in receiving the resignation.

The Auditor from the New York Office of Home Missions was sent out to audit the books of the various schools a few years ago and on seeing Mr. Ross a year latter told him he was expressly instructed by Mr. Allaben to find some cause in the financial management of the affairs of the school on which a charge could be made and a cause for discharging him. He told this confidentially to Mr. Ross personally, about a year after his trip to the school. Why was this? It has been a consuming desire it seems to me to get rid of all the men and women in the schools who have been there for some time, at least the work that has been done along that line would so indicate.

The facts given in this paper were presented to Mrs/ Bennett in writing, soon after Mr. Ross left the school in 1918, but that letteris not available just now, and it was in response to this, that the letter was written be her from which the quotations we have made in the accompanying letter addressed to Mrs. Bennett.

This gives facts on an individual case, showing the arbitrary methods used by Mr. Allaben, the unjust investigation made and the unfounded decisions reached in this case.

As stated above Mrs. Bennett had all these facts in writing and she decided to shield Mr. Allaben when she well knew the facts in the case justified action on her part and at least demanded that Mr. Ross be given a hearing, yet she simply held the facts and wrote the insinuating letter, quotations from which you have in this letter addressed to her.

Another faze of the destructive influence of Mr. Allaben's work on the advancement of the work in New Mexico was in his arbitrarily closing the High School department of the Allison-James School for girls in Santa Fe. Presbytery made a protest through a committee and missionaries who had been interested in building up the school made individual protests but to no avail. Mr. Allaben advised the cutting off of the High School classes and they were cut off. After some years and the school was injured and a good number of fine Mexican young women were deprived of the High School education that would have been of advantage to them; he saw his mistake and the High School was reestablished, but think of the loss to those girls, who will never again have the opportunity. This could have been saved if there had been a man at the head of the Educational Department of the Woman's Board, with judgment to consider people on the field might possible have an idea from their long experiences.

The same thing is now at work in the Boy's School at Alburquerque. They say the same thing and I mean the same results are working against the advancement of the boys. The High School is going on, but the Industrial Department is doing almost nothing and the boys are spending their time, growing into men yet without the advantages of a preparation for any trade that might open to them the means of making a living. In these days of industrial opportunities any institution that is training boys, and especially boys of one of the exceptional races is utterly failing in its responsibility to the people if it does not offer the advantages of an industrial education in connection with the literary and religious opportunities. Cutting down the number of schools and curtailing the work in those left seems to be the main object of the Supt. of the School Department.

There was a shipment of chairs sent to the Alburquerque School, some years since, about 1914 or 1915, and the freight on the chairs was just 27 cents more per chair than an Alburquerque firm had offered to place the identical chair in the school for. Of course, the matter was explained as a mistake. You may accept the explanation.

I do not know that this lengthy story may be of any use in looking into the matters that are up for consideration, but I have written it for use as it may fit in, with apologies to no end and with reservations of no kind.

I have made statements that can be proven in every case, with perhaps two exceptions; viz: that Mr. Allaben made the trip to see Mr. Cordova for the list of names and that he made a certain statement on the platform at Menaul. The first was a surmise, but he had the list, and the second was told me by a lady who heard him make the statement and I think it can be proven.

You might get some backing in your plan by writing to Mr. S. P. Fenn, Secy and Gen. Manager of the Sherwin-Williams Paint Co., Cleveland Ohio. I know he feels strongly that there should be a change in the Head of the School Department and has declared that he will not support the cause any longer, or until there is a change.

Mrs. Wiber, (I think that is the name) who was visiting the schools and speaking for the Woman's Board, told me that she heard all over the field, complaints of Mr. Allaben and his promises for support for equipments and for better facilities, but that they were never fulfilled and she ended her remarks by saying, she had never followed any one who was so universally disliked as he.

It is only possible that I may be in Philadelphia myself in May, at the Executive Commission Meeting, and if so and if you are there at that time having the pow wow, I would be pleased to join you.

I am very truly,

(Signed) J.C.ROSS
Box 474 Alburquerque, N. M.

P.S. I might add another item that shows that Mr. Allaben never gave up in his determination to dispose of the old workers, no matter how long it might require him to accomplish his purpose . That is a good quality I admit, if his reasons are well founded.

The Synodical Missionary from New Mexico was in the office at 156 Fifth Avenue New York back in 1912. Mr. Allaben said to him, "We have canned———, we are now after——— and Ross will be our next victim." These blanks represent the names of Superintendents of Schools under the Woman's Board. It was after this statement that he sent the Auditor with the instructions to find some financial shortagem but failed so had to look for some other cause. Finally he found it in a disgruntled faction among the teachers in the school.

Copy of a letter written to Mrs. Bennett by J. C. Ross of Menaul School,
Alburquerque, N.M.

Alburquerque, N.M. Oct. 16, 1918.

Mrs. M. Katharine Bennett,
156 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

Dear Madam:

I have so far restrained myself from replying to a letter I had from you, a camouflage under date of June 20th, 1916, but now feel compelled to send in a reply to a part of that letter. Since the departure from this life of my darling wife, her death following the prolonged and painful suffering that dates back to the visit to the Menaul School, in October 1915, of a man sent out in an official position, but whose visit and investigation was wrose that a farce, was criminal, I call it, I can hold myself no longer but must write. My wife who had given unstintingly of her love, her devotion, her time and the full limit of her strength, was by nature so sensitive and just that she could not withstand the shock of injustice that was heaped upon her, and today her blood cries out for revenge and the revenge is evident in the decline of the work.

You refer to determination to leave the work at the end of twenty years, and you said, "For this reason much was not gone over in detail that would have been gone over otherwise." I, nor we had made no such determination, we had simply mentioned it as a possibility, and that was grabbed at by your representative. At any rate, the past and not the future was under investigation and if there were circumstances that I did not understand, it was the business of the man making the investigation to so put them that I could understand them, for I was the one most vitally concerned. No I am mistaken in that statement. I was the one under investigation and matters should have been explained to me so that I could understand them. That would have been only a matter of justice. The one most vitally concerned was my wife, who had been so loyal to every act or wish of the Woman's Board, so faithful to the work and who did more for the upbuilding of the youth of New Mexico than any other individual ever working among them is my belief and that of many others, at least so expressed. Yes, she was more vitally concerned, for it meant her life and the injustice of it all, your full support of the unjust and biased report. Then the implied something that you had in your mind when you wrote, "I am sure that as it has all been kept quiet at our end of the line, as carefully as it could be kept, you do not wish that anything further be said about it." That last was the final stroke, more than the refined and delicate nature could stand.

Mrs. Ross watched with a hunger I have scarcely seen for some printed recognition of the work of those years of toil and sacrifice, but in this a part of the whole scheme to crush, she was disappointed. Of course, there was a mention of our going, a few lines. I tried to get her mind on the beauties of Winona and the programs there but nothing could get her away from the injustice of it all and the implication in your letter of the awful thing, you had so kindly kept quiet, just what we did not know and I challenge you now to tell.

The doctor told me that he considered her case a very peculiar one, and back of it all there was some mental strain of some kind. Of course, I knew what it was. You know what it was. I tell you there are more ways than one to murder.

Mrs. Ross was anxious to keep in touch with the Woman's Board work and sent in an order for the H.M.M. hoping to be able in some little way to keep up, but the magazine never came and she felt this a part of the whole scheme to cut us off entirely. And why not? since our lives according to you, had been such that you and your lieutenant must "Kindly keep our actions quiet."

Another thing, I cannot see why it was necessary for us to retire from the work earlier than we had decided to do - but we had not decided to retire- but I cannot see why that was necessary in order that we, "Leave carrying with us the best wishes and cordial thoughts of all the Board members" Certainly you must be covering something that I know not of, I must have been bad through and through. If you are speaking for"ALL members of the Board" that matter is settled, but I have had the opportunity of speaking to one or two since that letter was written, and I think that they know nothing about the bogus investigation and I do not share with you in your "kindness of keeping quiet."

You had it stated on the platform at the Menaul School that I was plead with to take a year off, get a good rest and come back to take up the work again at the beginning of the school year 1917. Aslo about the surprise your representative had in finding my resignation when he reached the office after understanding I was going to be away one year only.

You know hoe truthful that statement was, and you stand for keeping the man in as Supt. Of the Mission Schools of the great ~~beloved~~ Presbyterian Church A SHAME:

I place the whole facts before you and if as you say you placed all before the members of the Board and they agree with you and stand for such work I care not to have their good wishes, if on the other hadn you have not placed these matters before them but simply taken the whole responsibility, that much worse for you. You are there to get information to them. I am giving you another chance now to straighten the whole matter up, if you do not, I shall make it my business to present the information myself.

Understand I am not working for a position under your Board, for since my wife has gone, I do not feel that I could put my heart into that line of work, and I am sure I could not accomplish alone to any degree, the work we did together.

Mrs. Bennett, it is simply a matter of justice I asked for at the first. This was refused me. I am giving you another chance to do the right thing.

I am very respectfully,

(Signed) J.C.ROSS.

(Extract from letter of Mrs. Wiber)

> "Complaints of Mr. Allaben and his promises for support and equipment and better faciliteis but they were never fulfilled. Have never found anyone so universally disliked as he."

Whitby, Ont. Apr. 17/20

My dear Mrs. Cramer:

In reply to yours of the 31st ult. please allow me, in the first place, to say that the writer is a personal friend of Mr. Allaben's. Therefore please understand this letter is written not to injure him but in the interests of the Mission Schools.

Having a personal knowledge, especially of the school work in the mountains of the South, I am fully convinced that the college-like policy which Mr. Allaben has introduced is NOT in accord with the splendid purpose of those who planned the work; nor with the intelligent wishes of those who now support it, as it does not and cannot meet the essential needs of the boys and girls for whome the Mission Schools are intended.

It is also a fact that Mr. Allaben has dismissed not a few exceedingly successful workers simply because they have not received a Teacher Training Course, and not first, last, and always School men. This I consider a distinct loss to the work of the Womsn's Board.

But why blame Mr. Allaben for this deplorable condition since he claims when he became Superintendent, the appointment was made in full knowledge that he was essentially a College man and would never be of the "Parson-praying" type. Again, when he was appointed one of a small committee to take charge of the school department he claims those responsible for this appointment were well aware of his college tendencies; Again, when that small committee gave him, practically speaking, complete control of the School Department — thus conferring upon him decidedly Czar-like powers — Mr. Allaben claims that his college ideals were well known.

Now, Mrs. Cramer, in view of these facts, taken in conjunction with Mr. Allaben's unbounded confidence in his own opinions and his apparent absolute inability to grasp the real, crying, Soul needs of the Young people in the several Mission districts, should we be surprised that many splendid Christian workers have been dismissed? Should we be surprised that pupils of eighth grade standing or lower are having a school policy thrust upon them which is calculated for advanced college students? Or should we be surprised that under the new policy the emphasis is NOT put upon the development of Christian character?

In conslusion I wish to congratulate your Synod upon the stand taken and trust you will succeed in acquainting Presbyteries and congregations until the whole body of individual Supporters are fully aware of this new school policy. Then if the people who pay this money wish to adopt the new policy, Mr. Allaben should be retained; but if those who support the schools with their gifts, their prayers, and theri sacrifices, wish the emphasis of the school work to be placed upon the development of Christian character and the fitting of girls and boys for Christian citizenship; then the church, even if the matter has to go to General Assembly, should see that Mr. Allaben is replaced by a new Superintendent that the wishes of the supporters may be recognized and that the Schools may again fulfill, under Civine blessing, the high and noble purpose for which they were organized.

If I can be of further service in this important matter, I will feel honored.

Yours sincerely

(Signed) J. C. ROGER.

601 South Monroe Street,
Monroe, Mich.
April 13, 1920.

Mr. M. C. Allaben,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

As a friend of Mr. and Mrs. Guigou, of Ashville Farm School, I am writing to make a protest at the treatment Mr. Guigou has received at the hands of the members of the Board of Home Missions.

Allow me to explain briefly why not only I, but the women of the Presbyterian Church of Munroe, Michigan, have a peculiar interest in Mrs. Guigou and her husband and feel that we have a right to offer a protest to the Board. Mrs. Guigou is a product of the Missionary Society of Monroe, Michigan. She was taken as a child of thirteen and trained and educated for this work. Threough long years of loving interest and labor on our part she was prepared for the mission work to which she has so devotedly and successfully directed her efforts.

In the recent action at Ashville Farm School they have not only not been shown the slightest consideration but after years of faithful, conscientious efficient service to our Board, on the part of both Mr. and Mrs. Guigou, without a moments warning and without having been given any reason, Mr. Guigou has been turned down and out in the middle of the school year and another man put in his place.

When I speak of their years of successful, conscientioud service to our Board, it is not through any prejudice on our part, or personal interest in their favor, but from repeated reports from our Field Secretaries and officers of the Home Board to our missionary circle, so that their character and success in the mission field is not to be questioned.

Permit me to say that when a man at the head of any of our Christian schools, through wire-pulling, intriguing, or any ulterior motive, treats any of our workers in such unchristian, unjust, uncalled for treatment as the head of the Ashville Farm School has accorded Mr. Guigou, we feel that there ought to be a power higher up that will protect them and not allow our faithful missionaries to be thus knifed. The blame, for there is unmistakable blame, lies with the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church. The church at large asks why our young people do not offer themselves for the ministry and mission fields, one answer to the question is found in the treatment accorded Mr. Guigou.

To seek to exonerate this most remarkable action, and washing ones hands, as it were, of the whole matter by sending them down to Cuba in an untried climate, with two wee babies, and two other small children, and Mrs. Guigou recuperating from an operation, is adding insult to injury. It is needless to say that we are indignant, and justly so. When the women of the Presbyterian Church work and give as they do for missions they have a right to expect that their missionaries shall be taken care of, or at least, that they shall be shown some consideration at headquarters having charge of this.

Before closing, I wish to say that some one thoroughly conversant with the Ashville School and the several workers who have left since the present incumbent took charge made the following remark, "I wonder just how many good workers President Calfee is worth."

In closing I wish to add that Mr. and Mrs. Guigou know nothing of my writing to you. It is simply injured justice that is speaking, in this case looking to the very natural place in the Presbyterian church to have it righted.

Sincerely yours,

LOUISE BLOODGOOD
Written by her sister Miss Harriet G. Bloodgood.

Watertown, N.Y., April 27, 1920.

My dear Mrs. Cramer:

It is many a day since I have had a letter that did me so much good as yours, with enclosures, of the 21st.

This matter is one that has given me great uneasiness and one that has received much thought. I am so very glad that a Synodical Society has taken the matter up and in the energetic way yours has.

Four winters ago my daughter and I spent in the South. As a matter of interest to us, we visited various Mission Schools of any denomination convenient, but were of course much interested in our own. For many years I have been especially interested in our School - as you will know our one and only school for Mt. Boys. I found conditions there so bad that instead of returning by the way of Cleveland, O. and Pittsburg, we came via N.Y. so I could talk things over with Mr. Allaben, as I wanted to get his ideas of things being done and planned for, Farm School. I was tremendously disappointed in my interview and really learned nothing of his plans. In fact, he was not very courteous. I had learned far too much of conditions there for his peace of mind evidently. One of his questions was "Mrs. Gamble how do you know all these things?" As I wished very much to make no trouble for the workers there at Farm School, but also entirely truthfully I replied, "Mr. Allaben, I found things so bad at Farm School that I asked questions and insisted upon being answered as I felt I had a perfect right to know." Dr. Roger who was head of the school for many years is a very splendid man, but the Board discharged him, I think solely because he could not agree with Mr. A-----. I know too that as you say in your letter, the teachers in our schools are not consulted with regard to the things most needful for their work and for the best good of their pupils, but in fact their opinions are entirely ignored.

Mr. Allaben seems to have the Board entirely dominated by his will and ideas. It seems such a deplorable state. It is quite bad enough to be a citizen of a "One man country," without having to belong to a "One man Missionary Society" and that a Woman's Society.

You may like to know that I have laid this matter before our Woman's Presbyterial President, Mrs. Rexford. When I came home four years ago I reported to our officers what I had found but we could not see how one Presbytery could do anything. And when Mrs. Bennett attended Synod here in Watertown two years ago last fall Mrs. Rexford, my daughter and I had an interview with her, when she told us that "a change is soon to be made." "Soon" seems to cover a great deal of time in Mr. A's case. Mrs. Rexford as Presbyterial President is writing various members of the Board and enclosing typed copies of your letter. You see we want to be sure they get copies. You doubtless have sent them copies, but it may be more effective if they have more than one.

You have stated the case so very well that it leaves little for us to do, but if we can be of help will you let us know in what way? I should be interested to know why Mr. Guigou asked you to write me.

Hoping for the success which is for the best interest of the needy boys and girls of our land, I am cordially yours for the work

(Signed) JESSIE B. GAMBLE.

P.S. I find that after the first closely written sheet I still want to write more. What you say in your letter to Synodical Societies - regarding buildings erected at different stations applies so accurately to Farm School that it might have been written of that alone. The plan there since the burning of the old building is for a "civic centre." One new building has been placed so near a perfectly good old gym that the latter must be moved. Another building is planned to stand where the vineyard now is. Mr. Guigou has no doubt told you these things but you may like to know that I also know it.

You are right in saying "The emphasis seems to be for the educational etc."

You are also perfectly correct in what you say about the deitorials in the Home

Mission Monthly being misleading. Many of them are. While letters from the teachers and workers tell only the bright side and are thus misleading, but these teachers would "lose their heads" if they told the whole truth.

I do not seem to know when to stop. Please tell me if I can help for I do want this great wrong righted.

Very sincerely,

(Signed) JESSIE B. GAMBLE.

We agree with you that Philadelphia is the place for this matter to be discussed. It looks to me as if your being asked to New York is to hush it up. Please do not be silenced. Northern N. Y. Will help you. It is not clasping hands around the continent, but it is half way. I forgot to say too that I am writing also to various Board members.

Mrs. G.

**Mrs. Cramer**

This correspondence that Mr. Robe spoke of we have here and will read it if you so desire.

**Mrs. Bennett**

Is it your desire to hear this further correspondence. I await an expression of your opinion.

**Mrs. Louderbough**

It seems to me that if we wanted to we could get a great many letters of this type about anyone in the United States. I know we could refute a great many of these things ~~p~~ I personally could refute them - if our word were any better than the word of the people in writing but I cannot see how this is going to clear letter after letter of this type. We could get any number that would be exactly opposite to those. Is this correspondence that is to be read going to prove anything and bring us to conclusions? If so, I think it would be of value to hear it but these people have been invited to criticise and have done it.

**Mrs. Bennett**

May the chair as the privilege of clearing unhesitatingly the name of one who has been mentioned in one of the letters read by Mrs. Cramer at once. We have a letter here from Miss Stephenson sent to Mrs. Cramer. Letter read by Mrs. Bennett.

420 W. 119th Street, New York
April 15, 1920.

Mrs. Lettie R. Cramer, Cor. Secy.,
Muskogee, Oklahoma.

My dear Mrs. Cramer:

Your letter forwarded to me from Asheville, N. C. came to hand today. Since the first of February I have been in New York at The Teachers College. I resigned my position in Asheville Home School more than two years ago and was released September 1918/ It was my request, that after a year's vacation I be given work under the Woman's Board entailing less responsibility than a principalship, and last September was appointed to do a special work for which I felt I needed more preparation.

Since September 1887 I have worked under appointed of the Woman's Board nad have always been treated with justice and consideration. ~~[illegible]~~ When at times the Woman's Board or any member, past or present including Mr. Allaben, and I have not seen things in the same light, we have been able to take counsel together either by conversation or by correspondence in such a way as to gain each others view point and adjust matters satisfactorily, and to do so without generating destructive heat. Therefore I have no grievance to present, no information to impart.

Mrs. Thomas Lawrence's address is Lawrence Avenue, Grove Park, Asheville, N. C.

Yours sincerely,

FLORENCE STEPHENSON.

**Miss Childs**

Were letters written to all schools? If so, have you no letters favorable to the Board, refuting these charges?

**Mrs. Cramer**

We did not invite criticism as this lady said and I think if she will get a copy of the letters we wrote she would see we wanted to find true evidence in the case. We merely asked if they knew anything about matters to which we referred in the petition. We did not write to all schools - we wrote to all that we could find the addresses of and have read all that we received.

(Mrs. Bennett called attention to the fact that she had received from some schools copies of letters which they had sent to Mrs. Cramer.)

Okmulgee, Oklahoma,
May 10, 1920.

Mrs. O. E. Cramer,
715 W. Broadway,
Muskogee, Oklahoma.

My dear Mrs. Cramer:

Your letter has remained unanswered until the last minute because it has always been my policy to refrain, ever, from making public uncomplimentary reports. However, this has apparently been the policy of too many, who know, and the present undesirable situation is the result.

From 1893 to 1909 and from the spring of 1910 to the fall of 1919, Mrs. Robe and myself were uncomplaining workers in the schools conducted by the Woman's Board of Home Missions. We recall with love and sincerest respect, Dr. George F. McAfee with his firm but winning and Christian way; then Dr. Creig with his great interest in the real welfare of the "exceptional population" for whom the Woman's Board conducted schools. Following him was Dr. Boyd, whose first idea of the work was not adjusted to meet conditions on the field, but whose idea greatly changed during his two years of service, as he became acquainted with the needs. His successer was Mr. Allaben, who, it seemed at once, was a misfit, but remembering, that efficiency comes with knowledge, we hoped that Mr. Allaben would change his plans and ideas as he became acquainted with the large responsibility.

It is not wise to say that former days were better than these, but there is no question, but, that the preceeding policy of the Board was far superior to the present system.

Now for definite illustration of why the present methods are objectionable; first, in securing new workers their Christian fitness and church standing seems to be the least consideration. The fact that our schools were mission stations and our first and chief object was to bring our pupils and patrons to a saving Faith in Christ, seems to have been largely overlooked. The superintendents and teachers of the schools are looked upon as hirelings who should be guided by rules and regulations from one who knew practically nothing of local conditions. Militarism where teachers and superintendents would be as privats and sergeant seemed to be the idea. The system is wrong The women of the Church and all interested in the needy work they support should know why there are so many changes in the Board rooms, why the field secretaries are continually changing, all of them, we knew, were surely splendid, able, interested and consecrated. Then why have so many most excellent men, who have given years of splendid service of proved success left the work, when good men for such a service are hard to find? Silence ceases to be a virtue when one leaves a worthy work because they are permitted to conduct the work as they and their associates know it should be. I dare say, that nine tenths of those who have left the service under the Woman's Board since 1910 have gone with a feeling of resentment knowing the system was wrong and that the work was mismanaged and that the Lord's funds were not bringing the results they should.

Almost without an exception, as far as I have been able to learn, the costly buildings erected by the Board in the past ten or more years have been inconvenient, almost undersirable, expensive affairs which did not meet the requirements of the field they were expected to serve. The ideas of superintendent and faculty as regards arrangements and equipment, have been disregarded and they have been handed the thing to use as best they could.

To be a successful head of any of the Board's schools a man must be, not only a school man, but a business man, a real live wire, alert and quick to grasp a new situation and meet it. Such men the Board has had. And after being on the field six months or a year such a man knows more about what the school needs in the way of buildings, equipment and supplies than a dozen specialized men at a distance. Our schools must be modern in every sense of the work, be kept up to NOW and be modern in every sense of the work and changed as conditions change to meet the requirements of t the changing times, but who is better fitted to do this than the superintendent and his faculty. As for me, I visited Government, public and private schools of all kinds, colleges and universities as often as opportunity would permit. I also went out among our patrons and saw their needs and was ready at all times to introduce everything and almost anything which could be afforded that was for the best, yet of late years I may as well have had no ideas of my own. I believe other superintendents have had like experiences. The same amount of money and talents expended by the superintendents of the schools could, in almost every sense, I believe, have provided larger or better buildings, more equipment and better provisions. The talk was "Standardized Equipment". This was impossible, for what is needed in Porte Rico would be next to useless in Alaska.

Again I have known the peace and harmony of a school to be disrupted by some one coming in from New York, or instructed by some one in the office, to do so, asking questions regarding trivial nothings which left the effect of an outside meddler.

Mr. Allaben is a man who could fill many a good position, but he is a misfit and his methods are not a success or will they ever be in the work of the Woman's Board which is an institution that stands "For Christ First." You will find him politic with well laid plans for the execution of the carrying out of the idea he has in mind and may I add, to be a home Missionary under the present system, one must be a polititian. Whether that fault is with Mr. Allaben or the Board your investigation will determine. I sometimes feel that those who selected and retained him are more at fault than is Mr. Allaben. Personally, I appreciate all he has done for me, yet I feel that the work is of first importance, and that all these years of friction, loss of good workers, erection of unsuitable buildings, etc., have proven him unfitted for the position he holds. Since the Board has been kept in the dark, or have refused to right mistaked, I heartily approve the only method which seems available at this time, and that is the method being used by the Women of Oklahoma Synodical.

The attached copies of correspondence are self explanatory and are a fair sample of a superintendent's troubles. Troubles that would be eliminated if he and his faculty had the authority which rightly is theirs. And so we have dropped out, one by one, crushed, hurt, distressed over existing conditions, and may I add, amazed and angered at the slowness of the women of our Board and Churches to grasp the situation. The child is placed in the hand of the missionary. The women of our Church provide the funds and look to the missionary for results. How can the missionary do efficient work if handicapped by a system that ties his hands; robs him of authority in the management and discipline of the work he is commissioned to carry on and takes from him his inspiration for service.

It was absolutely unnecessary for the $30,000 to $50,000 plant at Dwight to remain idle the past school year when there were hundreds of young men and women needing a school home.

With all good wishes and prayers for the success of the Ladies of Oklahoma Synodical in their splendid and worthy efforts to make better and more efficient the work of the Woman's Board, the Church and our Master.

Sincerely yours,

J. M. ROBB.

1231 Mulvane Street,
Topeka, Kansas,
May 8th, 1920.

My dear Mrs. Cramer:

It is not easy to know just what to write in answer to the request for an opinion as to the matters touched on in your petition.

I have been thinking and feeling strongly on these matters, for though I have been out of the work for some years, I have close friends in most of the mission schools, and have been able to visit several of the schools since I left the work myself.

The growing restlessness and discontent among the workers, and the loss of confidence and respect that those who are nearest to our mission schools feel, point to some influence that hinders the highest usefulness of our schools and causes a doubt as to their adaptability to the real needs of the people they are meant to serve.

The confidence of those who watch the schools from close at hand has been considerably shaken by the removal, forced or somewhat voluntary (but anticipating a forced removal) of such loved and trusted workers of long service as Miss Stephenson, Dr. Roger and Mr. Guigou, in the mountain field, Mr. and Mrs. Ross from Menaul; Mr. Schaub and Miss Meeker from Santa Fe, and many others whose long service had won the confidence of the people they served, and of their fellow workers, t teachers and pastors on the mission fields. If their plans and ideals were in conflict with those of the Woman's Board leadership, the worse for the Woman's Board, is the judgment freely expressed. I discovered the intensity of this feeling when I visited friends in Asheville this winter.

The trickery and wirepulling used to dislodge some of the Asheville workers is perfectly evident to those, even far outside mission circles, and is a wide departure from missionary ideals.

To know that such means are likely to be resorted to, undermines the morale of all the work. A superintendent who is working in expectation of "getting what Ross (or Robe) got" as they say, keeps enthusiasm and loyalty at low ebb, and is sure to react on the whole force of workers in that particular school. Workers in some Western schools have told me that Mr. Allaben's visit last winter was an ice bath to their work, and the depressing effect is still felt.

A western Synodical meeting favored (?) by a visit and address from the superintendent of school work several years ago raised the question "If he has no more real interest in the mission school work than he has in the Synodical meeting he came across the country to attend, of what use is he to the school work?"

Which only increases the doubt and distrust of the present management of the Women's Home Mission work.

We women in the Western Synods have been trained to meet the apportionments sent us by all our Mission Boards, and so far we "keep even" and try to do the fair thing by all the work, but this lack of confidence must react eventually on the Home Mission side of the work. Some of the speakers sent from the Home Board have complained to me, as a former Synodical officer, of the lack of cordiality and responsiveness in the hearing accorded them, and our Kansas women were blamed for being over critical and indifferent. I was somewhat relieved to find this feeling was not peculiarly Kansas, when the president of a much more important (financially) neighboring Synodical Society remarked in my hearing that she could not expect THEIR women to give a very cordial welcome to H. M. speakers, until a different type of worker was sent out.

The leadership and the constituency of the Woman's Board of Home Missions are out of harmony somehow, and I cannot think the constituency is so entirely untrustworthy in their judgment as our friends at headquarters would have us believe.

Our Western women anticipated attendance at the St. Louis meeting last spring as one of the great missionary and spiritual privileges that might come to them; they came away depressed and distressed, some of the most discerning of them, by the absence of prayer and lack of spiritual interest.

The glittering promise of EFFICIENCY and EQUIPMENT, and high sounding talk of SOCIAL SERVICE may displace for a time the emphasis on the fundamental purposes of the mission work, but first things must be kept first, if the work is to hold the confidence and respect of the Church.

Because I have been long enough in service as a teacher of the mission schools to thoroughly love and believe in the work, and because I can see that these present unfavorable conditions are sure to be a harm and hindrance to it, I truly hope that there are better days coming.

Yours sincerely,

M. B. TRUE.

**Mrs. McAfee**

The number of superintendents is large; the replies have been five or six. Am I right in this?

**Miss Ogg**

There have been five replies read.

**Mrs. Richardson** (Montana)

I have been in an Institute; I have taught in an Indian school under the Government; I understand so well the side of the people in Oklahoma and yet I think I understand the other side just as clearly and I feel we should not allow this meeting to close without a fuller understanding of just what is right to everybody. There is no doubt of the sincerity of the women from Oklahoma and yet I am convinced, having been in missionary and volunteer work - not one who worked for the money in the case but for 14 years on the field. In that capacity I have learned much of the mistakes made by people and as we had at that reservation a mission school that did not belong to the Presbyterian Church. If these ladies followed up the statements made and pushed them to the wall, they would find that many will not stand the light of the sun. For instance, mistakes are made like this:- One night in leading Prayer Meeting the Inspector was there and I heard some one say, "Who told you that" -"Why, Mrs. Richardson." I turned to him and siad, "Why, what do you mean? I have never answered one question asked by the Inspectors since I have been in the work. I have refused to answer a single question. How dare you use my name?" He said, "I beg your pardon. Mrs. Richardson is telling the truth." But if I had not been there, my name would have been quoted in making the statement that was absolutley false. I believe Mr. Allaben has made many mistakes, first because he was absolutely inexperienced and I tell you no man can go from a college and go into a field such as ours without being on his knees a great deal, especially when he comes with ideas that those in the work are old fogies and that he knows the work. I have seen work absolutely pulled down in a year because of just smart people taking the place of others who have gone before and because of their inexperience, thinking they knew things they did not know and had no possibility of knowing until they had had experience...., Mr. Allaben has made terrible mistakes but I think that everyone of the mistakes has been because of ignorance and has been with no desire to be unfair and I think it would be a terrible thing to leave this meeting with the feeling that this great Home Board should be censured for mistakes that have been so natural because of a little misunderstanding ............. Run down these statements to real authority and find those who are willing to face them and put the names to them. Mr. Allaben should take it upon himself to see and look into this because if he cannot do better, he ought to be willing to resign, and ought to exonerate the Board from the mistakes that he has made. I believe that my great experience in Indian work and on the Mission Fields justifies me in saying that I believe you have done a wonderful work and that you have not meant to harm work by mistakes.

**Miss Hyatt**

May I ask the ladies of Oklahoma if they have any letters from people in employ of Board. Those which have been read come from people who have been requested to leave or have resigned - generally not of their own volition. There is no testimony of any sort from the people in the employ of the Board.

**Mrs. Cramer**

I think that it would be quite evident to anyone that these people will not say anything while they are under the Board because of loyalty and fear that "their heads would be taken off."

**Miss Hyatt**

Mr. Robe is still in the employ of the Board, is he not?

**Mrs. Bennett**

Miss Torrence, can you tell us whether Mr. Robe is in the employ of the Board?

**Miss Torrence**

Mr. Robe is still under salary pending further decision.

**Mrs. Cramer**

Mr. Robe does not know that he is still under salary.

**Mrs. Bennett**

The checks have gone to him and have been cashed. Perhaps Synodical Presidents do not know that it is the custom of the Board if anybody has been in the service of the Board for a long period of time to carry him on salary for one year after their term of active service so that he may be able to have time to adjust himself to new conditions. I have on hand testimony that has come in unsolicited from those who are now on the field, working under the Board. I am not going to read it to you because these people being under the Board and under salary, there seems a disposition to discount their testimony.

**Mrs. Crane**

Why not read a few of them?

**Mrs. Bennett**

Because the people are in the employ of the Board. Mr. W. M. Paden of Utah, not under Board, wrote a letter to me on entirely different matter but in it he said. "No Board deserves more credit than the Woman's Board for work in Utah."

May I take time to say two or three things. I would like to take up the question of the ladies from Watertown - Mrs. Gamble and Mrs. Rexford. As has been read, Mrs. Gamble went to New York, saw Mr. Allaben after she had been to visit the Farm School. Letters came to me from various ones and amongst others from the synodical president of New York, saying that these ladies were much upset about the Farm School and she very much wished that I would go to the synodical meeting at Watertown, New York the following October and talk with these ladies and present the case of the Woman's Board. This is not an easy thing to say because Mrs. Gamble and Mrs. Rexford are not present. I went there and was met by these two ladies and the daughter of Mrs. Gamble. We had a long conversation in which I think I can say with all honesty, I made every effort to secure definite statements of what the real troubles were, that might be remedied but they were mostly general charges. Finally the chief thing I secured was that the place was in a shabby condition and looked run down, which I granted. Reference was made here to the fact that I said something about changes. I did. I did not say and I do not see how they misunderstood, that the changes was to be in New York the change was to be at Farm School and I supposed we were all clear; the first I heard that they had misunderstood me was here. I did acknowledge and I said frankly that I considered the Farm School in its disorder a disgrace to us, but I also said that (and I am going to say this about a man of whom I am very fond) was due to the superintendent who had been there for many years - Dr. Rogers - that things should have been kept in condition by the

Superintendent on the grounds . It was his job to do it and it was because after years of effort to get these things remedied that his resignation was necessary.

Mrs. Williams - Pennsylvania

May I speak from a personal visit of some length of time in the immediate neighborhood of the Farm School and visits there again and again. I know that the sentiment of the people - my son-in-law had business dealings with Dr. Rogers and was well aware of this- was that the removal of Dr. Rogers was not only perfectly justifiable but absolutely necessary if the work of the school should be kept on. I know that at the time I was there the teachers and neighbors were anxious for this. Dr. Roger's statement is merely sour grapes on his part.

Mrs. Bennett

Dr. Rogers called me up - it was certainly more than a year after he had left the Farm School - and asked me to find a place under the Woman's Board where he could again work, that is, he asked to be reinstated.

We put up the buildings at Farm School to which reference was made in Mrs. Gambles' letter with the intention of tearing down the useless old gymnasium but the war came and the high cost of labor and our boys went to war so that we have never been able to get that gymnasium down. If it had not been for the war, the old gymnasium would have been taken down right away. These things were said to the lady from Watertown when she was at Farm School but the one who said them was herself amazed to find how far what she thought incidental had gone.

Mrs. Crane

When you went there, did you have this idea of solving this problem?

Mrs. Bennett

No. It was quite a casual thing with me. I supposed their minds were at rest so far as they could be until we have put the Farm School in a better condition.

It has been suggested that I read another letter. You will note that the letters that Mr. Schaub wrote were in 1913. A year later on June 3, 1914, Mr. Schaub wrote to Mr. Allaben as follows:

> "After a year of almost absolute rest, I have fully recovered my health and am ready for service under the Woman's Board. My preference of fields

> would be the Mexican but I would consider others on account of our children who cannot go some places."

That request to be reinstated was a year after the opinions were expressed of the Woman's Board, the School Department and the rest.

**Mrs. Cramer**

What was the date of that letter?

**Mrs. Bennett**

June 3, 1914. The proceedings are being recorded and as nearly as possible these dates will be noted. We will be very glad to see that Oklahoma will be furnished with this.

**Mrs. Hendren**

May I say for Oklahoma, I am sure they would agree with me, that it was only the good of the work we were considering when we took this up and if it can be proven to us that we are in the wrong, no set of women would be any more glad than Oklahoma synodical to make a statement that we were in the wrong if that can be proven. I want them all to clearly understand that it was with no spirit of contention at all.

**Mrs. Waid**

What is to be the method of procedure?

Being from Kansas I do not believe in whitewashing. We have not come here with any idea of hushing the matter up; our investigation from New York was made in the fairness which characterizes the Woman's Board and with the spirit of justice that characterizes the ways of the Board. The feeling is that we must have a square deal for everybody and that is what I felt today and made the motion that Mr. Allaben should sit with us; it is not fair to him to hear the charges by hearsay. Everybody, from the Interchurch down, is perfectly willing to confess mistakes and everybody, from the Interchurch down, is perfectly willing to rectify them ..... We are all moved by exactly the same purpose. Do you women realize that it is not an easy job for a man to work with a Woman's Board? My husband at times expresses deep sympathy with him - and I know you would too - if you could know the ways in which our work has to be carried on. It is not an easy thing for any of our workers to carry on work and the difficulties have increased during the last few years. It is not often that we sit down together as we are sitting down today, to get both sides of a question. I do not doubt that if every time a matter of this sort has come up, and it could have been taken up in this same way, it would have been cleared up long ago. The conditions of separation and the fact that everybody talks to everybody else except the Woman's Board is the biggest difficulty yet. May I ask why, when all of us are printed on the back page of the Home Mission Monthly and can be reached at "156" why it is felt that the door to the Woman's Board is closed? Why should there be a reluctance on the part of any of our synodical women to come and talk to us frankly about all these things?

I have been in the field a great deal -----I have met a great many of the workers; I stand in the difficult position of being very fond of many of these and realizing at the same time that they were not capable of holding the job they were in. We have many dear personal friends who have been in Mission work just as you have personal friends in your own communities, and unfortunately no matter how much you love them you come to see that they could not handle the job. Now that is the situation that the Woman's Board faces in regard to its workers on the field who do not measure up to their jobs. Your affection would dictate to keep them there but your sense of conscience to the women of the church makes it necessary that you should put that behind you. We have committed to Mr. Allaben, we have left to him the difficult task of carrying those things out. You all know that none of you have found perfection - even in the good old days before Mr. Allaben's regime. If those adjustments have been made with the right motives, for the right purpose, let us stand by them. If they have not been done in the best way possible for us, let us change the way and I am sure that I can answer for the officers of the Board when I say that they and Mr. Allaben would agree it should be changed. I do feel that more harm has been done the Woman's Board than ever the Synodical Society of Oklahoma realizes; I would not wish that any synodical society should feel that the door is ever closed. It is very much wiser to have them in the open and have them cared for than to have them misunderstood, but things like that go on for twenty years and all over our field there will be murmurs going out from this action that has been taken - because whether you meant it or not, it is against the Woman's Board. I cannot really see that Oklahoma has proved its case. It seems to me that Oklahoma has proved that there has been dissatisfaction, that, if Mr. Allaben will pardon us, he may have written letters which were a business man's letters. He has written me letters like that but I have had the advantage of being able to go in and argue with him about the kind of a letter he did write. I am sure that after we have talked it all over and after we have found that there is only a little just complaint and a good deal of misunderstanding and a good deal of insistence on the method rather than the motive, I am sure that all of us will want to come to a unanimous conclusion. We do not want Oklahoma to feel that we have whitewashed things but we do want this assembly to feel that the Woman's Board or the Woman's Board officers have ....... the great motive that lies back ofour work. I have been sitting here :.............We do not want or feel that it is just for the Superintendent of Schools to be held responsible for certain of the details. There have beem things that have been very hard for many of us to get accustomed to -the Purchasing Agency for one thing - that has been a thing that has inyerfered with local tradesmen and with local conditions ........I have not checked up the chairs but I have slept on the mattresses and know they are all right. ............. You realize that we have been short of money for years and mistakes have been made. I confess that one of the things I happen to know about is buildings; I have happened to see the sketches sent from the field, many of them impossible, most of them more expensive than the Board could build. Any woman who has tried to lay out a school knows that she will make mistakes. I have gone through letters of the Superintendent about these matters and have seen the answers from the field when the plans were sent back. I cannot see how we can say that this is a just argument. If there is any more that has a bearing on the subject, I think we should know right here. The Woman's Board has made mistakes but their purpose is just the same purpose with which they were founded and we know the thing is going to be carried on just as it has been carried on.

Mrs. Cramer

May I answer two of these statements. First, why we did not write to headquarters as the names of the members were on the back of the magazine. We did not get to talk to Mrs. Bennett when she was in Oklahoma as she was busy with the men's committee and Mr. Allaben talked to the women. That was in Muskogee and Mr. Allaben told us - which may not be know to you- that Oklahoma did not give enough money to the work and need not have anything to do with the work. (I have had this statement sworn to by two other women who heard it, who are not here, before a notary public as you do not know me). That will answer to the question why we did not tell the Board - that was the response we got when we tried to tell the Board.

It has been intimated that perhaps these things that the missionaries wrote were not exactly true and now if you will allow me just in the interest of fair play, I will read a

letter from Mr. Robe and Mr. Allaben's reply.
Letter from Mr. Robe to Mr. Allaben under date of July 17, 1919 read/
Letter from Mr. Allaben to Mr. Robe under date of July 30, 1919 read.

July 17, 1919.

Mr. M. C. Allaben, Superintendent,
156 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

Dear Mr. Allaben:

Receipt is hereby acknowledged of the "Copy of the announcement that is being sent to all the friends of Dwight who have a personal interest in the future of the institution."

There are several items in this announcement which surely do not meet with my approval. I shall have to take issue with you in the statement which says, "After prolonged conference with Superintendent Robe". From this, the people of the church would infer I was in favor of closing Dwight. You recall I not only was not in favor of closing the school, but opposed it emphatically in conversation with you. Then the statement is false for I had no conference with the Board or Executive Committee, and was less than five minutes in the presence of the School Committee. At that time I did not know who the Chairman of the committee was and had no introduction to the individual members.

Under #3 - We know positively the origin of the fire which burned Alexander Cottage and Shepherd Home, and, judging from the report of the State Fire Marshall on the fire of January 12, 1918, there is very faint cause for suspicion that it was of "Incendiary origin." Are you justified in reflecting so great a crime on the people of the community - the pupils of the school - or its faculty?

I am not uneasy regarding the effects of these statements on those who are acquainted with the situation, but I dislike (and it seems most unfair to me) to be thus misrepresented to the Church at large. For this reason I trust the announcement will be changed before it is widely circulated.

Very sincerely yours,

JOHN M. ROBE.

July 30, 1919.

My dear Mr. Robe:

I have your letter of July 17th before me protesting against the use which has been made of your name in the announcement which was sent out regarding Dwight School. First, let me disclaim any intention whatever of misrepresenting your position. We had not thought the reference we made to our conference with you would carry with it the idea that you approved of the action taken. Of course, we know definitely that you did not approve of this action. I think I will clarify the situation when I say that by conference with you, I meant the conferences which you and I had together, and not your conference with the School Committee. Surely that is the idea which I had in mind in using the word "prolonged. Of course I included the conference which you had with the Committee together with the conference which you had with the officers of the Board in my thought of the prolonged conference.

With reference to number three I think if you will carefully go over the situation in your own mind you will recall that was written in your presence and that you agreed with me at the time that there was at least ground for suspicion that some of these fires ~~ware~~ of incendiary origin. Of course grounds for suspicion may be few or many in accordance with the idea of the person who entertains the suspicion. I am not however intending to reflect any crime on the people of the community, the pupils of the school or its faculty nor do I believe that this statement will be so interpreted.

As it is not our intention to circulate this announcement or publish it generally outside Oklahoma where the situation is well understood, I do not see that it will be necessary for us to withdraw it or to make any addition. If, however, you wish to make a further statement yourself I shall be glad to have you submit it to the office for consideration by the Committee.

Deeply regretting the use of your name under the circumstances without more definite qualification, I am with kindest regards

Very sincerey yours,

Superintendent of Schools.

Mr. John M. Rober,
Dwight Indian School,
Marble City, Okla.

Mrs. Bennett

I think we are getting into much detail. Of course this thing does not have to be finished today but I should be very glad to reach some judgment. Are we going to come to a conclusion and how? I note that people are beginning to leave and that disturbs me. I do not wnat this meeting to go on when there are only half a dozen left here. It is not fair to the Committee from Oklahoma nor to the Board. At this time it seems to me that Mr. Allaben might like to make a statement. This is not necessary unless Mr. Allaben desires it. Mr. Allaben.

Mr. Allaben

Madam Chairman and Ladies:-

From the standpoint of man I feel just a bit critical of the method that has been followed in submitting these charges. Indeed it should be noted that they are not really submitted as charges but rather as alleged facts. The point I wish to make is that the evidence which has been presented here by the Oklahoma Committee is all, or nearly all of it, of subsequent date to that of the charges. I should very much like to see the evidence which formed the basis for the original draft of the resolutions. However, that is a minor point. What we are after is the truth. Nobody is more anxious than I to have this brought out.

I am prepared to make a frank statement of my position with reference to all the evidence which has been produced and believe that if I have an opportunity to confer with the Oklahoma Committee I shall be able to clear up much of this apparent misunderstanding. It is not an easy position to be a general superintendent in a large field like that of the Woman's Board. It goes without saying that any superintendent working with any large group of executives for a period of ten years is bound to meet with friction if he endeavors to express himself. If he does not express himself he will make no contribution of his own to the work. It is the duty of the Superintendent of Schools to present his ideas to the Board and then if they are adopted by that body to carry them out as best he can.

With reference to the case of Mr. Ross, I am convinced that if an investigation to which he refers had been carried to a conclusion and the evidence presented to the Board, it would have been necessary to demand his resignation. My own position in the matter is fully explained by the following letter addressed by me to Mr. S. P. Fenn under date of June 6th, 1917.

June 6, 1917.

Mr. S. P. Fenn
The Sherwin Williams Company,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Fenn:

Your letter of April 24th regarding Mr. Ross was forwarded to me from the office and now comes before me for consideration and reply just as I am leaving for Alaska. First, permit me to apologize for this long delay due to the exigencies of traveling in the various remote districts of the West where our Board is conducting its work.

With reference now to the subject of your letter. I am surprised that you are laboring under the impression that Mr. Ross was removed from his position as Superintendent of the Menaul School. I am at a loss to understand how you should be so misinformed, and I welcome this opportunity to present for your consideration the facts in the case. They are briefly as follows:-

1.- When I started from New York in the fall of 1915 to visit the Western schools I had no idea that Mr. and Mrs. Ross would not remain indefinitely at Menaul, and it had been my policy to support his administration of the work in every effective way since the time when I became Superintendent of Schools in 1912. I make this statement to dispose of any theory that I was planning to recommend a change at Menaul.

2.- When I arrived at the school in December 1915, I found a certain amount of dissatisfaction in the faculty and among the students with the administration of the work.

3/- In the natural order of business I discussed these criticisms with Mr. Ross and to my grest surprise he made the statement to me that Mrs. Ross and he had definitely planned sometime before to withdraw from the work at Menaul at the expiration of their twentieth year of service, namely 1917.

4. - In view of the existing dissatisfaction and in justice to Mr. Ross, who I felt had been laboring under a heavy handicap since the time of his illness some months previous, I then proposed that he take his twentieth year as a period of rest and recuperation at full salary. This suggestion after conference with Mrs. Ross was accepted and Mr. Ross announced his plan of withdrawal at a faculty meeting which was held on the last evening of my visit.

5. It is only proper to state that our conferences and negotiations were all conducted in a most friendly spirit, wholly devoid of wrangling or dissension.

6. - I ought to add that it was without precedent for the Board to vote such an expression of appreciation as was done in granting full salary for a year, but I presented the case as one of exceptional merit and worthy therefore of unusual consideration, a view which met with a ready response from the Board.

In conclusion I am happy to say that Mrs. Bennett, the President of the Board, together with two other members of the Board and myself were privileged to attend the last Menaul graduation exercises as well as to spend several days at the school, and that we heard only words of praise for Mr. Donaldson's superintendency, from students, towns people and faculty alike.

Therefore, while in loyalty to an agreement made with the Board of Home Missions we cannot solicit the continuance of scholarship support from your Sunday School, yet we do wish to assure you that in our judgment the school is wholly worthy of any assistance that may be given it.

Sincerely trusting therefore that the work will not lose your individual interest and assuring you both of our appreciation of your gifts and our entire readiness to answer frankly either by letter or in person any other questions you may desire to ask regarding its management, I am

Cordially yours,

Superintendent of Schools
for the
Woman's Board of Home Missions
of the
Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

P.S. The above letter was written by Mr. Allaben in Seattle and sent to this office to be typed.

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Cleveland, O. April 24, 1917.

Superintendent, Woman's Board of Home Missions,
156 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

Dear Sir:

I speak in reference to a scholarship in the Menaul School at Alburquerque. For several years the First Presbyterian Church of Cleveland has maintained a scholarship and graduated in the end one at least and have now the second in progress.

My wife and I have been more than ordinarily interested in the school for a good many years, and especially under the management of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Ross. It was a great disappointment a year ago to note the removal of these people and the supplying of new management, and there have been several matters that have come to our knowledge that have not been at all satisfactory. For this reason we ask from you direct as to what the occasion was for the removal and for the change.

I have absolutely no question as to the present management, as to whether it is good or bad, but until some explanation can be made more satisfactory than anything we have had heretofore second-hand, I shall recommend the cancelling of the scholarship.

Having visited the school several times and noted its improvements and the improvements of the property, and the wonderfully efficient management as far as the observation of a visitor could go both of Mr. and Mrs. Ross, especially Mrs. Ross, I trust if necessary you will make a confidential explanation that may be satisfactory and remove the objections which I know were strongly in the mind of Mrs. Fenn, who has since passed away, and especially in my own mind, not only in connection with this but also as we happened to know from several other sources in the city.

Hoping to hear from you in a satisfactory reply and soon, I remain

Yours very truly,

S.P FENN,
Supt. Stone Church S.S.

**Mr. Allaben**

I must unqualifiedly deny the charge that I made a statement atthe commencement exercises of the Menaul School in 1917 to the effect that Mr. Ross had been granted a leave of absence for one year with the understanding that at the expiration of this leave he was to be retained in the Board's service. It is true that I did not wish the Board to know there was trouble at Menaul School. I desired to protect Mr. Ross from that. Indeed I wished to arrange it so he would retire from Menaul without there being any suggestion of dissatisfaction, as warranted by his nineteen years of service under our Board.

I think, Madam Chairman, that this is all the statement I wish to make now. I shall be glad to answer any questions that may be asked. You have read Mr. Schaub's letter which disposes of the charge that he would not work under my administration. You have stated that Dr. Rogers asked to be reinstated under the Board's work. I shall have to admit that charges could be sustained against me to the effect that I have kept some people in their positions when I knew they were inefficient and my answer would have to be that I have done this because it did not seem possible to get rid of them without causing more harm than good.

As for Mr. Guigou I am sorry that he did not present any statement. I gave him every opportunity possible for advancement and no one regretted more than I did that he did not demonstrate the requisite executive ability for the position of Supt. of Farm School. Our records show that he left the Board's service of his own accord to take a business position.

**Mrs. Cramer**

Did you say that Dr. Rogers asked to come back?

**Mrs. Bennett**

Dr.Rogers telephoned asking for a position. He said to me "I telephoned you because I very much want a position under the Woman's Board. Is not there something that you can find for me?"

**Mrs. Crane**

I also received a telephone message from him. He made no request of me but very much wanted to see me. I could not entertain him at that time but suggested that he telephone some other Board members.

**Mrs. Bennett**

I think Mr. Allaben, I will say a word of what you said regarding Mr.Guigou. Some of you have been at Farm School under Mr. Guigou's administration. Those of you who know him know that he is a very charming man. I liked him in the work, and was glad when he was given the opportunity to be the head of Farm School. It was not an easy position. The situation had developed in such a way under Dr. Roger's administration that Mr. Guigou faced a difficult situation. He could not make good; could not keep discipline and there are those here who saw the situation. Mr. Guigou himself was a Waldensain boy, educated in our Mission schools, he is a product of Mission Schools- his whole life has been under the Woman's Board, first as a pupil then as a worker. We who are fond of Mr.Guigou thought of him just as a very charming American - everybody would but the Mountain boys called him a Dago. He is a small man and the Mountain boys are great strapping fellows and resented his trying to control them. The situation was impossible. I say this because Mr. Allaben spoke to me about it before the matter went to the Board. I liked Mr. Guogou and wanted him retained and had to be convinced that it was best to let him go. He was given his choice of going to Cuba or having special training to do some further work under the Board, but he was not willing to do this and left entirely.

Miss White then read the following letter of April 20th, 1920 from Mr. Guigou to Mr. Allaben.

My dear Mr. Allaben:

Refering to yours of the tenth instant, wish to say that I regret very much that Miss Bloodgood has sent in any complaint of alleged mistreatment as it was our resolve to leave the Board's work, in wich both Mrs. Guigou and myself had been engaged so long, without causing any friction in any part of its machinery. If Miss Bloodgood wrote in a complaining manner, it is because she gathered from correspondence with Mrs. Guigou that we had not had a square deal and that she would not hesitate to let the ladies to know about it. However she did this of her own initiative seeing the injustice of the procedure. I will write Miss Bloddgood and ask her to drop the matter for the church's sake as we would rather suffer, and start life's work all over again than to cause any friction in the work for the Kingdom.

Wishing you unbounded success, I am

Most cordially yours,

LOUIS G. GUIGOU.

Mrs. Bennett

Mr. Schaub asked for reinstatement a year later than the time when he wrote the letters which he did concerning the Superintendent of Schools, the School Department and the Woman's Board.

Mr. Guigou wrote the letter that has just been read and retired from the work - not from Farm School - by his own wish although he was retired from the Farm School because the efficiency of the work demanded that he should be.

Dr. Roger asked to be reinstated a year after he had retired.

It is very remarkable that people can hold such opinions as they have dared to express about organizations under which they have asked as Christian men to serve, and I think we have a right to a real Christian indignation that men write letters saying such things when they have asked to come back and serve under the Board.

The matter of Mr. Ross has been taken up by Mr. Allaben.

In the letter from Dr. Maybelle True I noted that one of the things that aroused her was the constant change in Field Secretaries. Some of us wonder they stay so long and wonder if they are made of human stuff when they travel ten or eleven months of the year. I have tried to think of Field Secretaries who have gone. Mrs. Aldrich has been with us for years and Miss Preston was for years in the work before she became Field Secretary. Miss Streeter has been our Field Secretary for a number of years as has been Miss Crawford who came to us after a number of years devoted to presbyterial work in Baltimore. Miss Upham broke down after years of service, and the wonder is that more do not break down physically for it is no joke to travel ten or eleven months in the year.

Are there any further questions you wish to ask about the five men whom we have spoken of?

Mrs. Cramer

Why was Mr. Guigou taken from Dwight? He did splendid work there.

Mr. Allaben

He was taken from Dwight at his own request.

**Miss Hallock**

The complaints that I have heard have been that we are too soft-hearted - we like people so much that we keep them even though they might be inefficient.

**Mrs. Bennett**

It seems that in trying to avoid Scylla we run into Charbydis.

There are other terms in the charges that you might like to discuss. "Closing Stations" - We are always going to close them in the progress of American life.

**Mrs. Beebe, Illinois**

We have all realized that stations were being closed - the sufficient reason being that the policy of the Woman's Board always has been that when the work was no longer needed the school would withdraw and make way for the church or another agency.

**Mrs. Mitchell, Michigan**

It does not seem to me that a single point has been substantiated. I feel that I must say to the women of Oklahoma Synodical that such publicity should never have been given to the matter, that no matter what the Board has done, it was a matter that they should have taken to the Board before sending the message throughout the country broadcast. While they thought they had something that was worth while, I think they must be feeling this afternoon that nothing has been proven. I for one feel that we must uphold the Woman's Board of Home Missions in any action that they have taken in closing schools. It is their privilege to go and visit schools and find out whether men or women have been doing their work. It is right for them to dismiss men if they think it is best. We feel like censuring the women of Oklahoma. I do not approve of it myself and I do not think I can go back home without declaring my loyal support of all their policies which are so carefully considered before they are made. I do not feel that a single charge has been substantiated.

**Mrs. Edwards, California**

That is the thing that we objected to - the publicity given to this matter. I think you can depend on California if we find something we do not like, to come to you at once about it. Things have been so arranged that we could do it. The thing that hurt us most was that this matter was presented the way it was. We feel that if there are criticisms or demands that any synodical society wants to make, these should go directly to the Board.

**Mrs. Dickens-Lewis, Ohio**

I would like to make a motion to pass a vote of confidence in the Woman's Board of Home Missions in all they have done. Sympathy is in our hearts when we think that the Oklahoma women did what they thought was conscientious - their method was not the wisest. I would be glad to have this motion considered when it is in order to do so.

The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mitchell.

**Miss White**

As one of the oldest members of the Woman's Board, I want to thank these ladies for the confidence they have expressed. Westand with Mr. Allaben; we are arraigned every one of us just as much as he is personally. All his policies are brought to the Woman's Board and passed on. I thank these ladies, because you who are outside of the Board, synodical officers, are really the jury and you are the ones who are to pronounce judgment of this matter. We have stated our side; Oklahoma has been very honest in stating theirs; you of the synods are the ones to pass judgment on us. We have faithfully tried to carry out the wishes of the constituency at large. Our hearts and souls are in the work, we find that our very lives are bound up in the work of the Woman's Board. We give not only service but earnest prayer. It is never out of our thought.

Mrs. Thompson

I should like to say a word in connection with the charges that have been brought before us. In the first place I feel that all of us who are members of the Board feel that the women of Oklahoma have done this thing as they said, in a psirit of fairness. I feel quite sure and I think all of the Board feel, that they did it from perfectly conscientious reasons. Another thing I want to say is, we women recognize as no Board of men in the church recognise, that the constituency of the church is our master, that the Boards of the church are the servants of the church and that the church through its presbyteries, and I suppose in our case through our presbyterials, should speak if there is anything that the presbytery feels should be corrected. Of course the Board would prefer that the matter should come first to the Board itself, giving some opportunity to make the statements privately to the Board. I feel that these ladies have done this because they have the interest of the work at heart. I hope they will go back to Oklahoma feeling that the Board members appreciate that fact, We must realize that the Woman's Board is spread out in interest and money over a very wide territory and because a school is closed in Utah or because a school is closed in Oklahoma, it does not mean that there is a lack of interest in Utah or Oklahoma. There are in some cases specific reasons for closing the schools. We may err in looking over the national field. It is a little hard to sit in one place in the United States and to see the whole United States. I speak from the standpoint of the Board and also all the field. Perhaps the ladies from Oklahoma feel that Oklahoma is more important than some other field. Perhaps the ladies in Porto Rico feel the same way and in Alaska they may geel the same way. The women in New York are endeavoring to mske the decisions of the Board so wise in their expenditure that they can give to Oklahoma and Utah and Alaska and Porto Rico and other places various schools and forms of work. Sometimes we fail, we do not mean to fail. Is not that the difference between the law and the church? The law, if one of us has committed a crime through ignorance, does not take cognizance of the motive; the Christian Church does and Christians do in looking at each other when that which is not right has been done. The Christian Church and women are going to look at the motive back of the activity; I feel quite sure that the ladies from Oklahoma are looking at the motive and realize that the motives of the Board have been Christian.

Mrs. Bennett

We are getting to be a dwindling number. Would the ladies of Oklahoma like to retire and confer upon what action they wish to take?

Mrs. Hendren

I rise to speak to the motion. I am sorry that the methods of procedure were not the right ones that we should have taken. We did it all for what we considered the good of the work. If in our ignorance we proceeded as we should not have proceeded, I am very sorry that as synodical president I have been so poor a leader for Oklahoma but I know at no time has the committee done anything without first consulting the synodical executive and I was very careful that any letter that I received from the Board should not receive an answer before I had referred it to the Committee. We meet in conference at all times with our honorary president, Mrs. Knott. I am very sorry that I did the thing if we took the wrong method of doing things. We certainly felt that we were doing it for the good of the work.

Mrs. Bennett

Does Oklahoma Committee wish to retire?

**Mrs. Hendren**

Oklahoma does not wish to retire.

**Mrs. Bennett**

A vote of confidence to be taken by the group of people here will not close discussion. May I say that I feel the presence of the officers and members of the Board can have nothing to do with the vote of any woman here. She must express her conscientious conviction on so serious a question. I call for a rising vote.

The following synodical presidents or substitutes passed the vote of confidence in the Board:

Atlantic - Mrs. Jones
Baltimore-Miss Childs
California - Mrs. Edwards
Illinois - Mrs. Beebe
Kentucky - Mrs. Porter
Michigan - Mrs. Mitchell
Mrs. Hoskins

Montana - Mrs. Richardson
Nebraska - Mrs. Hilliker
New York - Miss Rice
Ohio - Mrs. Dickens-Lewis
Pennsylvania - Mrs. Williams
Tennessee - Mrs. Dailey
Wisconsin - Mrs. Mishoff

No opposition to this vote. Oklahoma refrained from voting.

**Mrs. Hilliker - Nebraska**

May I make another motion? I would be very pleased to make a motion that we make this a unanimous vote from synodical societies, that we express our sympathy, our approval and our confidence in the Woman's Board of Home Missions.

We all work under our Woman's Board. The Board is our Mother and in my own family if I were to make a mistake, I would still wish that my sons and daughters, though they might think that mother might have done differently, would stand behind me to the very end of time and it seems to me that we should feel the same way about our Woman's Board of Home Missions. Whatever comes, though we may not always approve, still we think and will give the Woman's Board our love and confidence.

**Mrs. Richardson**

We can go from this meeting with great feeling of sympathy of what the Boards have to face and of the many questions that come to them. .......................I think it would be splendid if Oklahoma would give the vote of confidence like the rest of us......

Mrs. Dickens-Lewis took the chair to take this vote of confidence from Synodical presidents and substitutes.

Mrs. Hendren:

Before this vote is taken, I, as synodical president, would like a conference with my Committee. I do not want to commit myself as synodical president until I have conferred.

Oklahoma Committee retired for conference.

**Mr. Allaben**

Even though I am Superintendent of Schools, I want to say to you ladies that practically every action taken by the Board has in it "The Superintendent of Schools in conference with" and the conference is usually with the General Secretary and the Treasurer..................................

**Mrs. Mitchell** made the request that we unite in prayer while Oklahoma was in conference and led in prayer.

Mrs. Dickens- Lewis also led in prayer.
Silent prayer.
Miss Alward then closed this period of prayer.

The Oklahoma Committee returned - Mrs. Dickens- Lewis still in the chair.

**Mrs. Hendren**

After our conference and prayer, our Committee felt that they had confidence in the Woman's Board of Home Missions but that we have not the right to vote on this question until we return to Oklahoma on account of the instructions given us by our executive. We feel that our hands are tied but I am sure that Oklahoma has confidence in the Woman's Board.

**Mrs. Bennett**

Would it be a breach of promise to ask what the instructions from the Committee were because it would help us in out knowledge of the next step to take.

**Mrs. Hendren**

No instructions to vote but we do not know next step.

**Mrs. Bion Williams, Pennsylvania**

Were any instructions given which would prevent your voting on it?

**Mrs. Hendren**

It was the consensus of opinion of the Committee that if we voted on this we would bind our synodical executive and we did not feel that we could do that. Personally I have confidence in the Woman's Board.

**Miss Hyatt**

Others would be voting without instructions or consent of synodicals.

The motion for an unanimous vote was withdrawn by Mrs. Hilliker who made it and Mrs. Mitchell who seconded it.

**Mrs. Bennett**

In view of the fact that we are at this stage at practically an impasse, there is only one thing to do and that is to bring up any questions on which the Oklahoma Committee is not satisfied. I think we had better ask now whether the Committee from Oklahoma is absolutely and unqualifiedly satisfied with the answers that have been made. If not, I feel that it is for us to go into the matter further until they are satisfied, if we can satisfy them.
Mrs. Hendren, are you satisfied?

**Mrs. Hendren** Yes.

**Mrs. Bennett**

Mrs. Jennings, are you satisfied?

**Mrs. Jennings**

Yes.

**Mrs. Bennett**

Mrs. Allen, are you satisfied?

**Mrs. Allen**

Yes.

**Mrs. Bennett**

Mrs. Cramer, are you satisfied?

**Mrs. Cramer**

No, I am not satisfied.

**Miss White**

Mrs. Cramer, on what points are you not satisfied?

**Mrs. Cramer**

You insist nothing has been proven - I do not feel that nothing has been proven. I do not like to be told that you cannot depend upon the words said by missionaries. I am a daughter of a missionary and know that any statement my father would have made would have been absolutely true. We feel loyal to the Board and all the workers. Besides I think that we have not the right to say that we are satisfied until we report this to the Executive Committee and have an opportunity to investigate about the apparent discrepancies in statements by Dr. Regers and Mr. Schaub - they may be just as able to explain, as you have been, some of theirs. We have a right to an explanation of these things before we commit ourselves for Oklahoma.

**Mrs. Bennett**

I do not remember hearing anyone say that the word of a missionary could not be taken.

**Mrs. Cramer**

The evidence of missionaries was read and you say nothing has been proved. This was not said directly but has been intimated.

**Mrs. Thompson**

People sometimes become very prejudiced because of certain personal relationships and you can't always feel that they give a perfectly accurate account though they may mean to give one. That, I think, was the attitude that the Board had taken to a few of these letters because of the personal attitude, because they were prejudised and therefore could not give an unbiased statement.

**Mrs. Bennett**

It will not be possible to continue at this time as it is now almost seven o'clock. How many of you can meet this evening?

**Mrs. Hendren**

Knowing Oklahoma as I do, having worked in the work there since it was in my home town, since it has grown from a mission church to a church with a membership of 2000 and have been in the missionary society that has grown from 6 or 8 women to 250 almost. Knowing Oklahoma as I do and I have gone over and visited every presbyterial year after year since I have been synodical president. Knowing them as I do and knowing synod - I do not think I have stated this - it was mentioned in the charges - we have the synod to consider in this matter - I really think it would be wiser for us to bring this matter to the synod; they may say to us, "Just drop the whole matter and send in a vote of perfect confidence." I am willing to go and every member of the committee would be. My feeling way down in my heart is that that would be the best thing to do. I may be mistaken - I have been mistaken in presenting these and did the wrong thing but I wonder if that would not be the wiser plan and if you are not willing to have us do it. Would it be any good?

Mrs. Bennett

In reply to Mrs. Hendren, the only things I can say are these:- The charges against the Woman's Board of Home Missions have been sent broadcast throughout the Church. I could not say how many copies of the resolutions from Oklahoma and how many copies of the letter from Oklahoma have come back to me personally - from all over the country. Some of these have come back to me not only from missionary women but from people of prominence - the pastor of one of the biggest churches in New York City brought me one. It had not been sent to him directly but had been given to him by someone else. Those people have been told that the Woman's Board would present its case to the women of Oklahoma at Philadelphia and that they would receive the decision reached. In view of the fact that from Oklahoma letters have gone out saying:

WOMAN'S SYNODICAL SOCIETY OF OKLAHOMA

Muskogee, April 9, 1920.

Extract from letter to Miss Stephenson:

When we go to Philadelphia, where we thought the matter could be better threshed out, because the other Synodicals would be represented there, we, of course, want to have all the evidence with us that we possibly can. We feel sure that our assertions are true because we have heard from so many of the workers, and Rev. F. L. Schaub, who was in the work for some years, gave us the facts for the petition. Mr. Guigou, when sending his testimony gave us your name, together with others, whom he said he felt sure would be interested and glad to help us.

We will appreciate very much, any information that you may give us, wither along the line of the petition or otherwise; any facts regarding the policies of Mr. Allaben of the state of affairs. You will know by the letter that it is not only Oklahoma's wrongs that we wish to right, but those of the entire field. We do not want to be unfair in any way and if we are wrong, we will be glad to be set right.

From Mrs. Lettie R. Cramer,
Cor. Sec'y.

WOMAN'S SYNODICAL SOCIETY OF OKLAHOMA
Muskogee, April 21, 1920.

Extract from letter to Mrs. Gamble:

The committee signing the petition was summoned to appear in New York within three weeks from March 16th; the Board offering to pay the expenses if the Synodical dould not do so. We wrote Mrs. Bennett, that owing to Mrs. Hendren, our President, being busy attending Presbyterial meetings, until April 15th, we would be unable to go. We were of the opinion any way, that it was a useless waste of funds to go to New York at this time, when we would be at the Board meeting in Philadelphia in May where we think it would be better to adjust the matter, as all the other Synodicals would be represented and could know what was done. Now we have a letter from Mrs. Bennett saying that the matter ought to be adjusted at the earliest possible time and there will be no time at the Biennial to take this up and asks us to come to New York (to be there on that date) May 14th then we can have Friday and Saturday, May 14th and 15th to talk the matter over with their committee. That means stay in New York then u until the 19th, five days, at an expense. We think that if there is not time during the Board meeting, it would be better and much less expense to stay over a day in Philadelphia and ask the delegates from all the Synodicals to stay too, then they can know at first hand what is done. They seem to be very much afraid to have the investigation come up at Philadelphia where the other Synodicals can know exactly what has been done.

From Mrs. Lettie R. Cramer.

Mrs? Bennett

In view of those statements that have gone out there is a great deal at stake for the Woman's Board. We cannot go back and say "We dropped the matter - we talked and then just dropped the matter without a decision." No one could be more glad than I to say "Let us adjourn, go home and forget it." Can we? We have gone so far that we must have an absolutely clear cut decision in which we can agree. This has gone from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Hard as it may be, disagreeable as it may be, can the Woman's Board afford to go back and say "We dropped the matter. We were not able to satisfy the women of Oklahoma but they agreed that they would drop it." One thing we can do and one only - we can adjourn, put this thing in the hands of the Oklahoma Committee with a committee made up of Board women, for information only but with no voting power, and a group of synodical presidents, no one to have a vote except synodical presidents and the Oklahoma Committee and that group can meet in Oklahoma or in New York or wherever they deem it wise at a comparatively early date after everybody has had an opportunity to find out anything they desire to. Personally I wish the Woman's Board could drop it. I wish it with all my heart but we must answer these people, hundreds of them. Can we say to them, I have to ask of you and the Oklahoma women, can we say to them - "We dropped the matter although the Oklahoma women were not satisfied about it." Does not that leave a cloud upon the credit of the Woman's Board? We are only temporary; the Woman's Board is permanent; we are only its trustees we in New York, temproary trustees. I feel even though it is hard - we musr come to some decision and not leave the matter up in the air. If there is no use of meeting tonight let us not do it; if there are further things here in all this material that will help clarify the situation, let us take it up tonight and thrash it out. Let us put it to a committee of five from Oklahoma, an equal number of synodical presidents and an equal number of Board members - the Board members to have no voting power and to be merely for information.

Mr. Allaben

I hesitate to say anything in matters of this kind, but if I could have an hour with this committee and could talk over things with them, I believe it might at least clarify the situation. I only ask that it be considered as something that can be done if you can get nothing done now. I would like to show the Oklahoma women the records of those men to make my own defense of these charges. It will give me at least a hearing which I cannot feel that I have had. What would be the harm of meeting with the Committee and coming back to you? I am the object of these charges and it is my record that is being attacked. I would like to sit down with these women - I have wanted to since they made the charges - as I think the records and correspondence would clear up some misunderstandings. If the Oklahoma Committee do not object to meeting me, I should be very glad to do this.

**Miss White**

Was it included in the vote of confidence that the charges against the Woman's Board were not sustained?

**Mrs. Dickens-Lewis**

Our vote was absolute confidence and satisfaction on our part, that what had been done was right.

**Mrs. Mitchell**

Is another motion in order, Madam Chairman?

**Mrs. Bennett**

I am going to ask the Oklahoma Committee if they will meet with Mr. Allaben?

**Mrs. Hendren**

That will be satisfactory to the Committee.

**Mrs. Cramer**

With Mrs. Hendren's permission I wish to speak a word in her defense and in the defense of the Committee. Mrs. Hendren is a wonderfully fine leader - it was not Mrs. Hendren who advised us to go about this matter in this way - we were advised by some good, spiritual ministers what to do and how to go about it. I would say besides in the defense of the Committee, we are withholding the action as we are because we were particularly instructed not only by our executive but by some of the good men of synod in Oklahoma, that if the matter resulted as it has, and they said it probably would, that we must not go on record as being satisfied. If the petitions and letters went to any men of wealth or to any other men, Oklahoma Synodical did not send them. We sent them to just the Synodical presidents of the country.

**Mrs. Bennett**

Mrs. Cramer, I have a letter here to Mr. S. P. Fenn of Cleveland signed by you.

**Mrs. Cramer**

I was asked to write to Mr. Fenn, but did not write to everybody at large- wrote at the bidding of the committee. I did not understand that it was Mr. Fenn you meant. I did write to Mr. Fenn - I was asked to write to people interested in work and express dissatisfaction.

**Mrs. Thompson**

Did Mrs. Cramer mean that rhe ministers of the synod had said to the committee who were coming here that no matter what the evidence used here was, that the committee was not to feel that they could not change their mind? That seems to put the ministers in a very unfavorable light.

**Mrs. Cramer**

We can take the evidence back. I do not feel that we did not prove anything. The synod of Oklahoma officially took no action, it was members of the Synod.

**Mrs. Bennett**

Is it satisfactory to those of you who are assembled here that Mr. Allaben should meet the committee this evening and present testimony personally? The committee is ready to meet Mr. Allaben. Then will you meet tomorrow morning to come to some decision?

**Miss [illegible]**

Would we meet here at 8.30 Or 9?

**Mrs. Mitchell**

The Committee from Oklahoma is a committee without power to vote. I am supposed to have [illegible] in a meeting like this. I cannot see why these ladies feel that they cannot vote.

**Mrs. Crane**

I am afraid that some of us cannot stay as we have given up our hotel reservations; it seems to me unnecessary to keep the synodical presidents here. Why cannot the meeting be in New York?

**Mrs. Richardson**

We gave a vote of confidence. I do not see why it is necessary for us to vote again.

**Mrs. Bennett**

Mr. Allaben will meet the Oklahoma Committee; the Oklahoma Committee will either meet any officers they wish to meet tomorrow morning - will find us at the Bellevue - Stratford - or Board members that are here for further information. The Oklahoma Committee can then return and lay this matter before the Executive Committee. If at the end of that they are not satisfied but wish to pursue the matter further, shall we appoint a committee of synodical presidents and shall we take the matter up later?

**Mrs. Mitchell**

Today we have heard testimony from the Committee from Oklahoma and we do not feel that that testimony has substantiated the charges. We have perfect confidence in the Woman's Board of Home Missions and I made a motion that we take a vote to the effect that the charges are not substantiated.

Motion seconded by Mrs. Williams.

Motion passed.

**Mrs. Bennett**

The plan has been suggested and seems to be the best plan - that is, that the Oklahoma Committee and Mr. Allaben meet, that the Oklahoma Committee see any Board officers or members for further information, that they then return to make their report to synodical executive and that a committee of synodical presidents be appointed to meet later at a place that seems best.

Mr. Allaben will then meet with the committee. Miss White, will you, as Chairman of the School Committee, also meet with them?

Miss Childs made the request that the Presidnet meet withthis group also.

The time of the meeting was set at 8.30 at the Bellevue-Stratford in Room 649.

The meeting then adjourned.